
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that community health
2 centers serve uninsured, underinsured, and low-income patient
3 populations with demographic complexities and co-morbidities, in
4 addition to one-fourth of the State's medicaid members, and much
5 of the State's homeless population. Community health centers:

6 (1) Are nonprofit, community-based organizations whose
7 purpose and expertise lie in providing quality person-
8 centered health care to underserved populations and
9 areas;

10 (2) Provide culturally and linguistically appropriate
11 health care and a broad range of integrated primary
12 care and preventive services;

13 (3) Operate in medically-underserved areas where people
14 have limited access to other health care providers
15 because of geographic and socio-economic barriers;

16 (4) Contribute greatly to the economies and livability of
17 the communities they serve; and



1 (5) Are cost-effective quality health care providers whose
2 care results in healthier patients and decreased use
3 of emergency, specialty, and inpatient services.

4 Community health centers save the health care system \$1,263
5 per patient per year due to timely, effective care and care
6 management that reduces unnecessary emergency room, inpatient,
7 and specialty utilization. This translated to savings of more
8 than \$90,000,000 for Hawaii's medicaid program in 2013. Their
9 patient-centered delivery system features comprehensive primary
10 medical, behavioral-health, and dental services; care management
11 and enabling services that enhance access, compliance, and
12 patient engagement; and focus on quality outcomes supported by
13 electronic health records that conform to meaningful use
14 requirements. Community health centers are smart investments
15 that result in healthier communities while still saving the
16 State money.

17 The legislature further finds that it is in the best
18 interest of the State to ensure access to primary, behavioral,
19 dental, and preventive health care for its residents. In
20 addition to facilitating a healthier population, improving
21 access to health care reduces state expenditures attributable to



1 hospital and emergency room services for preventable injuries or
2 illnesses.

3 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the State's
4 federally matched medicaid and med-QUEST programs form an
5 essential support for underserved individuals and for community
6 health centers. Among the medicaid programs that need to be
7 fully funded are dental benefits for adults and outreach and
8 enrollment services.

9 Oral health is as important as any other physical or mental
10 health need, and dental diseases contribute to cardiac issues
11 and premature births. Unaddressed dental needs affect the
12 ability of individuals to obtain and keep employment.

13 Med-QUEST programs offer insurance options for low-income
14 uninsured citizens. Under the federal Patient Protection and
15 Affordable Care Act of 2010, such programs expanded to
16 accommodate additional uninsured adults. It is in the best
17 interest of the State to ensure that community programs reach
18 out to and assist individuals and families with children to
19 enroll in med-QUEST programs and other social support programs
20 for which they are eligible.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide quality,
2 cost-effective health care for Hawaii residents who are
3 uninsured, newly uninsured, underinsured, potential medicaid
4 enrollees, or medicaid enrollees.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2016-2017 to restore basic adult dental benefits to medicaid
10 enrollees. The department of human services shall obtain the
11 maximum federal matching funds available for this expenditure.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
13 of human services for the purposes of this section.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2016-2017 to provide outreach and eligibility services,
19 including medicaid and children's health insurance program
20 eligibility, for children, families, and individuals at
21 federally qualified health centers. The department of human



1 services shall obtain the maximum federal matching funds
2 available for this expenditure.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of human services for the purposes of this section.

5 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the community
6 health centers special fund the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2016-2017 to the department of health to be transferred to the
10 department of human services to establish health homes for
11 medicaid enrollees at federally qualified community health
12 centers as provided in the federal Patient Protection and
13 Affordable Care Act of 2010. The department of human services
14 shall obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for
15 this expenditure.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of health for the purposes of this section.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Community Health Centers; Appropriations; Affordable Care Act; Medicaid; Health Homes; Med-QUEST Programs; Healthcare

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of human services to restore basic adult dental benefits to medicaid enrollees and to provide outreach and eligibility services for individuals and families at federally qualified health centers. Appropriates funds from the community health centers special fund to establish health homes. (HB1161 HD1)

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