

JAN 22 2015

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, low-income patient
3 populations with demographic complexities and co-morbidities, in
4 addition to one-fourth of the State's medicaid members, and many
5 of the State's homeless individuals and families. Community
6 health centers:

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

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

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



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1 (4) Contribute greatly to the economies and livability of
2 the communities they serve; and

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

6 Community health centers save the health care system \$1,263
7 per patient per year due to timely, effective care and care
8 management that reduce unnecessary emergency room, in-patient,
9 and specialty utilization, which translated to savings of more
10 than \$90,000,000 for Hawaii's medicaid program in 2013.

11 Community health centers offer patient-centered delivery systems
12 that feature comprehensive primary medical, behavioral health,
13 and dental services; care management and enabling services that
14 enhance access, compliance, and patient engagement; and focus on
15 quality outcomes supported by electronic health records that
16 conform to meaningful use requirements. Community health
17 centers are a smart investment that result in healthier
18 communities while saving the State money.

19 Implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable
20 Care Act has resulted in uncertainty for many individuals and
21 presents challenges for those individuals to obtain health



1 insurance. Overall, about 20 per cent of health center patients
2 remain uninsured, and some health centers have even larger
3 percentages of uninsured patient populations. For these
4 reasons, it is imperative that the State provide support and
5 resources to health centers so that uninsured individuals have
6 access to primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care
7 services that prevent unnecessary or inappropriate use of the
8 emergency room and minimize uncompensated health care costs and
9 state expenditures arising from treatment for preventable
10 injuries and illnesses.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
12 funds to provide quality, cost-effective health care for Hawaii
13 residents who are uninsured, newly uninsured, or underinsured.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,000,000 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 for the direct health care for the uninsured and
19 underinsured, which may include primary medical, dental, and
20 behavioral health care; provided that distribution of funds may
21 be on a "per visit" basis and may include an additional per



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1 member per month quality incentive payment that takes into
2 consideration need in all counties.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Uninsured; Underinsured; Health Care; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the direct health care, including primary medical, dental, and behavioral services, for uninsured and underinsured residents of the State.

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