
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION NECESSARY TO FUND AN EXPANSION OF MED-QUEST COVERAGE TO ALL POST-PARTUM WOMEN FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS FOLLOWING CHILDBIRTH.

1 WHEREAS, women who are ineligible for post-partum health
2 coverage struggle to get necessary care during the fourth
3 trimester, the twelve weeks following childbirth during which
4 time a woman recovers from birth and transitions to nurture and
5 care for her infant; and

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7 WHEREAS, the fourth trimester is a critical time as women
8 are more likely to die of pregnancy-related conditions during
9 this time than during pregnancy or childbirth; and

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11 WHEREAS, nationwide, drug overdoses, suicides and
12 pregnancy-related chronic illnesses, including diabetes, heart
13 disease, and high blood pressure, contribute to a rise in deaths
14 among women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the first twelve
15 months after childbirth; and

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17 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease
18 Control and Prevention, adequate medical attention could prevent
19 three out of five post-partum deaths; and

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21 WHEREAS, Medicaid pregnancy coverage, which pays for nearly
22 half of all births in the United States, expires sixty days
23 after childbirth, leaving many women without health insurance
24 during this vulnerable time; and

25
26 WHEREAS, although women may reapply as a parent after this
27 sixty-day time period, because the income limit for parents is
28 lower, many women are unable to qualify for coverage as a
29 parent; and



1 WHEREAS, policymakers in at least six states, including
2 California, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, South Carolina, and
3 Tennessee, are working to extend Medicaid coverage to a full
4 year after childbirth; and

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6 WHEREAS, health agencies in Georgia, Texas, Utah, and
7 Washington recommend similar efforts; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to the Commonwealth Fund, a health care
10 advocacy group, maternal mortality rates, including deaths
11 during and up to one year after pregnancy, are higher in the
12 United States than in other developed nations; and

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14 WHEREAS, while pregnancy-related death rates have dropped
15 worldwide over the past thirty years, these rates have more than
16 doubled in the United States; and

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18 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease
19 Control and Prevention, the number of deaths per one hundred
20 thousand live births in the United States has risen from seven
21 in 1987 to seventeen in 2016; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
25 2020, that the Department of Human Services is requested to
26 provide an estimate of the budget appropriation and legislative
27 action necessary to fund an expansion of Med-QUEST coverage to
28 all otherwise eligible post-partum women in the State for a
29 period of twelve months following childbirth; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
32 Services is requested to submit a report of its findings and
33 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
34 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
35 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,
39 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems
40 Corporation, Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
41 Health Systems Corporation Oahu Region, and Chair of the



1 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Hawaii
2 Section.
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