
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WOMEN'S HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that improving the health
2 of women in the State can improve the quality of health for
3 families and the community. Nationwide, more than twenty
4 million low-income women receive health coverage and long-term
5 care through medicaid, the nation's public health insurance
6 program for the low-income population. Although medicaid is not
7 typically considered a women's health program, sixty-nine per
8 cent of its adult beneficiaries are women. Medicaid provides a
9 wide range of health services for women including primary care,
10 pregnancy care, reproductive health care, care for chronic
11 conditions and disabilities, assistance with medicare costs, and
12 long-term care. In general, compared to the total population,
13 women participants in the medicaid program tend to be poor,
14 minorities, and mothers. In Hawaii, the medicaid program is
15 implemented through the Hawaii QUEST program.

16 According to data on 52,932 women in Hawaii who gave birth
17 to children from 2004 to 2006, women enrolled in the Hawaii
18 QUEST health insurance program were, compared with other women



1 who have recently given birth but were covered under other
2 health insurance:

- 3 (1) Three times less likely to access prenatal care in the
4 first trimester of pregnancy;
- 5 (2) Just as likely to have their infants receive their
6 first well-baby check, but twice as likely not to have
7 received the recommended post-partum check for new
8 mothers;
- 9 (3) One-and-a-half times more likely to have an unintended
10 pregnancy;
- 11 (4) At three to four times and two to three times higher
12 risk of being abused before becoming pregnant by their
13 former and current spouses, respectively;
- 14 (5) At three to four times higher risk of experiencing
15 intimate partner violence while pregnant;
- 16 (6) One-and-a-half times more likely to require dental
17 services during pregnancy;
- 18 (7) Three times more likely to smoke during the last three
19 months of pregnancy;
- 20 (8) Three to four times more likely to use illicit drugs
21 during pregnancy;
- 22 (9) Twice as likely to experience post-partum depression;



1 (10) Twice as likely not to have initiated breastfeeding;
2 and

3 (11) Ten per cent more likely to have a low birthweight or
4 premature infant.

5 The legislature also finds that pregnancies that recur
6 within a short period of time place great stress on mothers and
7 their infants. Interconception care, or the full scope of
8 preventive and primary care services for women between
9 pregnancies, provides additional intensive interventions to
10 women who have had a previous pregnancy that ended in an adverse
11 outcome, which is an important predictor of future reproductive
12 risk.

13 The purpose of this Act is to extend post-partum and
14 interconception care from eight weeks to six months for women
15 who participate in the Hawaii QUEST program.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
18 and to read as follows:

19 **"§346- QUEST program; post-partum and interconception**
20 **care; definition; rules.** (a) Each female participant enrolled
21 in the Hawaii QUEST program shall be provided with not less than
22 six months of post-partum and interconception care.



1 (b) For the purpose of this section, the term
2 "interconception care" means the full scope of preventive and
3 primary care services for women between pregnancies.

4 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
5 department shall make appropriate adjustments to the "rate of
6 payment per participating recipient" amount paid to health
7 maintenance organizations and prepaid health plans pursuant to
8 section 346-59(d), to allow for post-partum and interconception
9 care coverage to QUEST recipients as defined in this section,
10 administered by a person licensed to practice medicine under
11 chapter 453. Health maintenance organizations and prepaid
12 health plans shall not be required to increase coverage to QUEST
13 recipients for post-partum and interconception care administered
14 to QUEST recipients, as defined in this section, administered by
15 a person licensed to practice medicine under chapter 453, until
16 the department makes adjustments to the "rate of payment per
17 participating recipient" amounts.

18 (d) The department shall adopt rules to implement the
19 purposes of this section."

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
22 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for



1 providing not less than six months of post-partum and
2 interconception care for women who participate in the Hawaii
3 QUEST program.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 human services for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4 New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
8 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

Post-partum and Interconception Care; QUEST

Description:

Requires at least 6 months post-partum and interconception care for women who participate in the Hawaii QUEST health insurance program. (SD1)

