



GOV. MSG. NO. 903

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 8, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

I am transmitting herewith HB2761 HD1 SD1 CD1, without my approval, and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

HB2761 HD1 SD1 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING WOMEN'S HEALTH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 8, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2761

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 2761, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Women's Health."

The purposes of this bill are to require the Department of Human Services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend the State's Medicaid plan to extend post-partum and interconception care from eight weeks to a minimum of six months and to require the Department to report to the Legislature when it receives a response.

This bill is objectionable due to its potential adverse fiscal impacts. Women enrolled in the State's QUEST program already receive approximately two months of post-partum and interconception care after pregnancy ends. Any expansion of these benefits will require prior approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and, if approved, the appropriation of State funds. Adding expanded services to the QUEST program will increase overall costs. It would not be prudent to seek an expansion of this program given recent Council on Revenues' economic projections and existing budget restrictions.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS
HOUSE BILL NO. 2761
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For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill
2761 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Lingle', written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii

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 20,000,000
4 low-income women receive health coverage and long-term care
5 through medicaid, the nation's public health insurance program
6 for the low-income population. Although medicaid is not
7 typically considered a women's health program, 69 per cent of
8 its adult beneficiaries are women. Medicaid provides a wide
9 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 require the department of
14 human services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and
15 Medicaid Services to extend post-partum and interconception care
16 from eight weeks to at least six months for women who
17 participate in the Hawaii QUEST program.

18 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
19 apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
20 to amend the state medicaid plan to extend post-partum and
21 interconception care from eight weeks to a minimum of six months
22 for women who participate in the Hawaii QUEST program, to allow



1 the state to receive federal reimbursement. For the purpose of
2 this section, the term "interconception care" means the full
3 scope of preventive and primary care services for women between
4 pregnancies.

5 (b) The department of human services shall report to the
6 legislature upon receiving a response from the Centers for
7 Medicare and Medicaid Services on the requested amendment to the
8 state medicaid plan.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

