

JAN 21 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to improve access to
2 the full range of health care services to medicaid and QUEST
3 members accessing services through a mobile medical van, by
4 ensuring that medicaid and QUEST health plans have the
5 flexibility to provide appropriate health services via
6 technological means such as telehealth. This is especially
7 important with a new mobile medical van to begin providing
8 services to the more remote areas on the island of Hawaii.
9 Allowing QUEST and medicaid members to access services through
10 the mobile medical van will assist in improving the health of
11 those with chronic conditions as well as improving the overall
12 health of area residents.

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

16 "§346- Telehealth services; medicaid and QUEST. The
17 department shall not require:



- 1 (1) The department's approval for a health plan under the
2 department's medicaid or QUEST program to deliver
3 services using a telehealth service;
- 4 (2) In-person visits to qualify any telehealth service for
5 coverage under the department's medicaid or QUEST
6 program; or
- 7 (3) The mobile medical van program operating in a county
8 with a population of less than two hundred and fifty
9 thousand persons and operated by Kona community
10 hospital shall be funded through a partnership with a
11 non-profit mutual benefit society operating in the
12 State that provides health care coverage to at least
13 six hundred thousand members.

14 For the purposes of this section, "telehealth" means the
15 use of telecommunications services, as defined in section 269-1,
16 including real-time video conferencing-based communication,
17 secure interactive and non-interactive web-based communication,
18 and secure asynchronous information exchange, to transmit
19 patient medical information, including diagnostic-quality
20 digital images and laboratory results for medical interpretation
21 and diagnosis, for the purpose of delivering enhanced health
22 care services and information to parties separated by distance.



1 A standard telephone contact, facsimile transmission, or an
 2 email text, in combination or by itself, does not constitute a
 3 telehealth service for the purposes of this section. This
 4 section shall only apply to a mobile medical van program
 5 operating in a county with a population of less than two hundred
 6 fifty thousand."

7 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
 8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
 9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
 12 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2013.

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Report Title:

QUEST Telehealth Services

Description:

Provides for telehealth services coverage for medicaid and QUEST patients using Kona hospital's medical van program.

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