
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii must comply
2 with federal health reform legislation requirements by 2014,
3 including mandating physician reimbursements for outcomes rather
4 than transactions. The legislature is therefore interested in
5 authorizing and evaluating health and wellness alternatives that
6 reduce the incidence of chronic disease, support medicaid and
7 QUEST recipients in adopting and maintaining healthier
8 lifestyles, and reduce the costs of health care expenditures
9 associated with emergency care and other hospital-based
10 treatments for avoidable chronic diseases.

11 The legislature also finds that various programs and
12 practices can be used for inspiration when developing a pilot
13 program. Kokua Kalihi Valley's healthy eating and lifestyle
14 program is a culturally-informed diabetes self-management
15 education class aimed at persons of Pacific descent that
16 includes a communal garden component in the program. This and
17 other land-based programs that focus on wellness activities may
18 be able to prevent or reduce chronic illness. Integrating



1 nutrition, exercise, and medical best practices not currently
2 covered by health insurance can be used to achieve significant
3 and positive results for patient health. Education, counseling,
4 and other best practices not currently covered by health
5 insurance can be used to reduce childhood obesity. The
6 legislature finds that childhood obesity has increased
7 significantly in Hawaii and across the nation, and must be
8 addressed in a significant way in order to avoid an epidemic of
9 early onset diabetes and other chronic diseases. Finally,
10 complementary and alternative medicine and healing can be used
11 to promote good health and wellness.

12 The intent of this Act is to foster prevention and
13 proactive patient behavior to stay well and reduce the incidence
14 of chronic illness.

15 The purpose of this Act is to establish a wellness pilot
16 program within medicaid.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2012-2013 for the creation of a wellness pilot program for
22 medicaid recipients or QUEST members.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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Report Title:

Medicaid; HMS; QUEST; Wellness; Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Creates a wellness pilot program within medicaid. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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