

JAN 19 2012

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that QUEST Expanded  
2 Access (QExA) is a medicaid managed care program that replaced a  
3 fee-for-service program three years ago to provide health care  
4 to low income persons who are aged, blind, or disabled. These  
5 persons typically have multiple medical conditions and require  
6 care from different health care providers. The annual budget  
7 for QExA is approximately \$500,000,000.

8           The stated goals of QExA include a reduction in fragmented  
9 health care and the assurance of coordination across the health  
10 care continuum. In addition, the program is designed to be  
11 fiscally predictable, stable, and sustainable in order to assure  
12 access to high quality and cost-effective care.

13           However, despite these high ideals, enrollees, advocates,  
14 and health care providers express serious concerns that QExA has  
15 failed to meet its stated goals and that many enrollees are not  
16 receiving adequate care. For example, QExA is criticized for  
17 not compensating providers for care that should have been  
18 covered, and for not compensating providers in a timely manner.



1 Due to the uncertainty of receiving payment, some providers have  
2 begun to decline to take QExA enrollees as new patients. With  
3 fewer providers available to enrollees, access to care is  
4 reduced, the enrollee's medical condition may deteriorate,  
5 requiring more intensive treatment, and therefore increases the  
6 overall cost of care. The QExA program should be evaluated to  
7 determine the validity of these claims, to correct existing  
8 problems.

9 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
10 executive office on aging to conduct a program evaluation of  
11 QExA.

12 SECTION 2. The executive office on aging shall conduct a  
13 program evaluation of the QUEST Expanded Access program to  
14 determine whether its goals are being achieved. If any of the  
15 goals of the program are not being achieved, the program  
16 evaluation shall contain recommendations for achieving them.  
17 The director of the executive office on aging shall report the  
18 findings and recommendations of the program evaluation to the  
19 legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of  
20 the regular session of 2013.

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to conduct  
2 a program evaluation of the QUEST Expanded Access program.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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INTRODUCED BY: Phyllis Chun Oakland  
By Request



# S.B. NO. 2134

**Report Title:**

QUEST; Medicaid; Appropriation; Program Evaluation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to the executive office on aging to conduct a program evaluation of QUEST Expanded Access program.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

