
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO AMEND THE FEDERAL SECTION 1115 WAIVER GRANTED TO HAWAII TO RAISE THE MEDICAID INCOME ELIGIBILITY CEILING TO THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

1 WHEREAS, in 1994, a statewide Medicaid demonstration named
2 Hawaii QUEST Expanded was implemented through a federal section
3 1115 waiver, and pregnant women, children, and non-disabled
4 adults with incomes of up to three hundred percent of the
5 federal poverty level were made eligible; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 1996, the program made several significant
8 changes that restricted enrollment in the QUEST program,
9 implemented an enrollment cap of one hundred twenty-five
10 thousand people, and established a new safety net program as a
11 component of Hawaii QUEST Expanded called QUEST-Net that would
12 serve those who became ineligible for QUEST due to the more
13 stringent eligibility requirements; and

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15 WHEREAS, in 1998, the State reduced the eligibility for
16 QUEST to those with incomes of up to one hundred percent of the
17 federal poverty level, with pregnant women and children assigned
18 a higher limit; and

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20 WHEREAS, while the QUEST-Net program covered adults with
21 incomes of up to three hundred percent of the federal poverty
22 level, only about two hundred twenty adults were enrolled, and
23 as of February 1, 2008, QUEST-Net became more restrictive by
24 excluding adults with incomes of more than two hundred percent
25 of the federal poverty level; and

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27 WHEREAS, while Hawaii was restricting eligibility, other
28 states were exploring ways to provide health insurance to those
29 uninsured whose incomes were too high to qualify for public
30 programs, yet who did not have access to or could not afford
31 private insurance; and

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33 WHEREAS, New York instituted the nation's highest
34 eligibility ceiling for the State Children's Health Insurance



1 Program by including incomes of up to four hundred percent of
2 the federal poverty level; and

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4 WHEREAS, families earning over three hundred percent of the
5 federal poverty level are more likely to have access to
6 employer-sponsored health insurance, and as it is not the intent
7 of Hawaii QUEST Expanded to replace employer-provided health
8 coverage, an eligibility ceiling of three hundred percent of the
9 federal poverty level seems reasonable; and

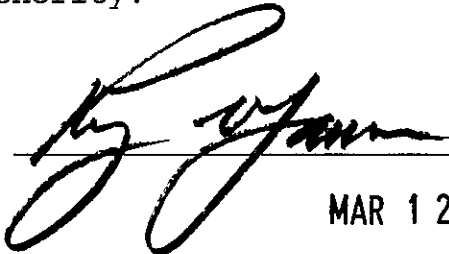
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11 WHEREAS, inflating health care costs have put individuals,
12 especially children, at severe risk of foregoing medical care,
13 and Hawaii needs to plan, execute, and maintain health insurance
14 expansions to increase the availability and affordability of
15 health care; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2012, that the Department of Human Services is requested to
20 amend the section 1115 waiver granted to Hawaii to raise the
21 Medicaid income eligibility ceiling to three hundred percent of
22 the federal poverty level; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
25 Services report on its progress in amending the section 1115
26 waiver to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
27 convening of the Regular Session of 2013; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human
31 Services, and the Hawaii Health Authority.

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OFFERED BY: 
MAR 12 2012