
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REEXAMINE THE BASIC HEALTH PROGRAM UNDER THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ONCE FEDERAL RULES HAVE BEEN ISSUED AND TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE FEDERAL SECTION 1115 WAIVER GRANTED TO HAWAII TO RAISE THE MEDICAID INCOME ELIGIBILITY CEILING TO PROVIDE THE GREATEST HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF HAWAII'S PEOPLE.

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 per cent 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 limited the eligibility for
16 QUEST to those with incomes of up to one hundred per cent 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 per cent 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 per cent
25 of the federal poverty level; and
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27 WHEREAS, inflating health care costs have put individuals,
28 especially children, at severe risk of foregoing medical care,
29 and Hawaii needs to plan, execute, and maintain health insurance
30 expansions to increase the availability and affordability of
31 health care; and
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1 WHEREAS, preliminary information suggests the Basic Health
2 Program under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care
3 Act would provide new federal funding for health insurance
4 coverage for Hawaii families with incomes between one hundred
5 thirty-three per cent to two hundred per cent of the federal
6 poverty level, a population that includes approximately four
7 thousand five hundred individuals and was covered by the Hawaii
8 Medicaid QUEST-ACE and QUEST-Net until recently; and

9
10 WHEREAS, benefits of the Basic Health Program may include:

- 11
12 (1) The eligibility for lawfully present non-immigrants
13 who are under the age of sixty-five and are not
14 eligible for Medicaid;
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16 (2) The possibility of restoring benefits to Hawaii
17 families with incomes between one hundred thirty-three
18 per cent to two hundred per cent of the federal
19 poverty level, with generous federal financial support
20 to the State; and
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22 (3) The eligibility for Compact of Free Association
23 migrants, who are currently not eligible for federal
24 Medicaid funding; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,
28 that the Department of Human Services is requested to reexamine
29 the Basic Health Program under the federal Patient Protection
30 and Affordable Care Act once federal rules have been issued and
31 to consider amending the federal section 1115 waiver granted to
32 Hawaii to raise the Medicaid income eligibility ceiling to
33 provide the greatest health care coverage to serve the needs of
34 Hawaii's people; and

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

