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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is in the best  
3 interests of the State to ensure access to primary, behavioral,  
4 dental, and preventive health care for its residents. In  
5 addition to facilitating a healthier population, improving  
6 access to health care reduces the State's expenditures  
7 attributable to hospital and emergency room services for  
8 preventable injuries or illnesses. The legislature finds that  
9 community health centers serve uninsured, underinsured, low-  
10 income patient populations with demographic complexities and co-  
11 morbidities, in addition to one-fourth of the State's medicaid  
12 members, and a significant portion of the State's homeless  
13 individuals and families. Community health centers:

14 (1) Are nonprofit, community-based organizations whose  
15 purpose and expertise lie in providing quality person-  
16 centered health care to underserved populations and  
17 areas;



- 1           (2) Provide culturally and linguistically appropriate
- 2           health care and a broad range of integrated primary
- 3           care and preventive services;
- 4           (3) Operate in medically-underserved areas where people
- 5           have limited access to other health care providers
- 6           because of geographic and socio-economic barriers;
- 7           (4) Contribute greatly to the economies and livability of
- 8           the communities that they serve; and
- 9           (5) Are cost-effective quality health care providers whose
- 10          care results in healthier patients and decreased use
- 11          of emergency, specialty, and in-patient services.

12          The legislature also finds that community health centers  
13 save the health care system \$1,263 per patient per year due to  
14 timely, effective care and care management that reduces  
15 unnecessary emergency room, in-patient, and specialty  
16 utilization. This translated to savings of more than \$90  
17 million for Hawaii's medicaid program in 2013. Their patient-  
18 centered delivery system features: comprehensive primary  
19 medical, behavioral health, and dental services; care management  
20 and enabling services that enhance access, compliance, and  
21 patient engagement; and focus on quality outcomes supported by



1 electronic health records that conform to meaningful use  
2 requirements. The legislature believes that community health  
3 centers are a smart investment that result in healthier  
4 communities while saving the State money.

5 The purpose of this part is to appropriate moneys to  
6 establish health care homes for medicaid enrollees of federally  
7 qualified community health centers.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the community  
9 health centers special fund the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2016-2017 to establish health care homes for medicaid enrollees  
13 at federally qualified community health centers as provided in  
14 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
16 of human services for the purposes of this part; provided that  
17 the department shall solicit and accept the maximum federal  
18 matching funds available for this appropriation.

19 PART II

20 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that oral health is as  
21 important as any other physical or mental health need, and



1 dental diseases contribute to cardiac health and premature  
2 births. Unaddressed dental needs affect the ability of  
3 individuals to obtain and keep employment. Among the medicaid  
4 programs that need to be fully funded are dental benefits for  
5 adults and outreach and enrollment services for these benefits.

6 The purpose of this part is to appropriate moneys to  
7 restore basic dental benefits to medicaid enrollees.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,800,000 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2016-2017 to restore basic adult dental benefits to medicaid  
13 enrollees.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of human services for the purposes of this part; provided that  
16 the department shall solicit and accept the maximum federal  
17 matching funds available for this appropriation.

18 PART III

19 SECTION 5. The legislature finds that Med-QUEST programs  
20 offer insurance options for low-income uninsured citizens.  
21 Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, these



1 programs will expand to accommodate additional uninsured adults.  
2 The legislature believes that it is in the best interest of the  
3 State to ensure that community programs seek out and assist  
4 individuals and families with children who are eligible for  
5 enrollment in Med-QUEST and other social support programs.

6 The purpose of this part is to appropriate moneys to  
7 provide outreach and eligibility services including medicaid and  
8 CHIP eligibility for children, facilities, and individuals at  
9 federally qualified health centers.

10 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2016-2017 to provide outreach and eligibility services,  
15 including medicaid and CHIP eligibility, for children, families,  
16 and individuals at federally qualified health centers.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of human services for the purposes of this part; provided that  
19 the department shall solicit and accept the maximum federal  
20 matching funds available for this appropriation.



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PART IV

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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# H.B. NO. 863

**Report Title:**

Community Health Centers; Adult Dental Care; Medicaid; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys to: establish health care homes at federally qualified community health centers; restore basic adult dental benefits to medicaid enrollees; and provide outreach and eligibility services at federally qualified health centers. Requires DHS to solicit and accept matching federal funds.

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