
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE NURSING FACILITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. Nursing facilities in the State face major
2 financial challenges in providing quality long-term care for
3 Hawaii residents. These challenges are largely the result of
4 inadequate payments from the medicaid program that do not cover
5 the actual costs of care. Medicaid is jointly financed by the
6 federal and state governments by statutory formula. The federal
7 government pays between fifty per cent and seventy-four per
8 cent, with assistance levels determined by each state's per
9 capita income. States with the lowest per capita income receive
10 higher federal matching rates. Under federal rules, the state
11 share must be public funds that are not federal funds. The
12 legislature finds that public funding to help sustain Hawaii's
13 nursing facilities financially may be accessed through a
14 provider fee.

15 The legislature further finds that provider fees exist in
16 forty-nine states and the District of Columbia as a means of
17 drawing down federal funds to sustain their medicaid programs



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1 due to rising state budget deficits, increasing health care
2 costs, and expanding medicaid enrollment. Provider fees, which
3 are collected from specific categories of health care providers
4 that agree to the fee, may be imposed on nineteen different
5 classes of health care services, including inpatient and
6 outpatient hospital and nursing facility services.

7 The legislature additionally finds that, in Hawaii, a
8 provider fee on nursing facilities has resulted in an increase
9 of medicaid payments at a time when there are constraints on the
10 State's budget. The additional federal funds obtained via the
11 fee program authorized by the nursing facility sustainability
12 program have helped to reduce the amount of losses incurred by
13 long-term care facilities and maintain access to care for
14 medicaid recipients.

15 The purpose of this Act is to preserve access to health
16 care for medicaid recipients by extending the nursing facility
17 sustainability fee program.

18 SECTION 2. Section 346F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

20 "(c) Revenue from the nursing facility sustainability fee
21 shall be used exclusively as follows:



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- 1 (1) No less than eighty-eight per cent of the revenue from
2 the nursing facility sustainability fee shall be used
3 to match federal medicaid funds, with the combined
4 total to be used to enhance capitated rates to
5 medicaid managed care health plans for the purpose of
6 increasing medicaid payments to private nursing
7 facilities;
- 8 (2) Twelve per cent of the revenue from the nursing
9 facility sustainability fee may be used by the
10 department for other departmental purposes; and
- 11 (3) All moneys remaining in the special fund on
12 December 30, [~~2017~~] 2018, shall be distributed to
13 nursing facilities within thirty days in the same
14 proportions as received from the nursing facilities."

15 SECTION 3. Section 346F-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "~~§346F-10~~ **Enhanced rates to medicaid managed care**
18 **health plans.** In accordance with title 42 Code of Federal
19 Regulations section 438, the department shall use revenues from
20 the nursing facility sustainability fee and federal matching
21 funds to enhance the capitated rates paid to medicaid managed



1 care health plans for the state fiscal year [~~2016-2017~~] 2017-
2 2018, consistent with the following objectives:

3 (1) The rate enhancement shall be used exclusively for
4 increasing reimbursements to private nursing
5 facilities to support the availability of services and
6 to ensure access to care to the medicaid managed care
7 health plan enrollees;

8 (2) The rate enhancement shall be made part of the monthly
9 capitated rates by the department to medicaid managed
10 care health plans, which shall provide documentation
11 to the department and the nursing facility trade
12 association located in Hawaii certifying that the
13 revenues received under paragraph (1) are used in
14 accordance with this section;

15 (3) The rate enhancement shall be actuarially sound and
16 approved by the federal government for federal fund
17 participation; and

18 (4) The department shall modify the fee-for-service
19 reimbursement rates of the nursing facilities to
20 recognize the medicaid portion of the nursing facility
21 sustainability fee as an additional cost of serving



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1 medicaid patients, and to provide a uniform percentage
2 increase in preexisting facility-specific rates."

3 SECTION 4. Section 346F-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) Collection of the nursing facility sustainability fee
6 under section 346F-5 shall be discontinued if:

- 7 (1) The waiver in section 346F-7 or the enhanced
8 capitation rates in section 346F-10 have not been
9 approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
10 Services;
- 11 (2) The department reduces funding for nursing facility
12 services below the state appropriation in effect on
13 June 30, [~~2016~~] 2017;
- 14 (3) The department or any other state agency uses the
15 money in the special fund for any use other than the
16 uses permitted pursuant to this chapter; or
- 17 (4) Federal financial participation to match the nursing
18 facility sustainability fee becomes unavailable under
19 federal law. In such case, the department shall
20 terminate the collection of the fee beginning on the



1 effective date of the federal statutory, regulatory,
2 or interpretive change."

3 SECTION 5. Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, section
4 5, as amended by section 3 of Act 142, Session Laws of Hawaii
5 2013, as amended by section 2 of Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii
6 2014, as amended by section 2 of Act 69, Session Laws of Hawaii
7 2015, and as amended by section 2 of Act 59, Session Laws of
8 Hawaii 2016, is amended to read as follows:

9 "SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012,
10 and shall be repealed on June 30, [~~2017,~~] 2018; provided that
11 section -4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established by section 2
12 of this Act, and the amendment made to section 36-30(a), Hawaii
13 Revised Statutes, in section 3 of this Act, shall be repealed on
14 December 31, [~~2017, and provided further that the amendment made~~
15 ~~to section 36-30(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, in section 3 of~~
16 ~~this Act shall not be repealed when section 36-30, Hawaii~~
17 ~~Revised Statutes, is reenacted on June 30, 2015, pursuant to~~
18 ~~section 34 of Act 79, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009.] 2018."~~

19 SECTION 6. Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, section
20 7, as amended by Act 69, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, and as



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1 amended by Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 "SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2014;
4 provided that:

5 (1) Section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2014;

6 ~~[(2) The amendments made to sections 36-27(a) and 36-30(a),~~
7 ~~Hawaii Revised Statutes, in sections 3 and 4 of this~~
8 ~~Act shall not be repealed when sections 36-27 and~~
9 ~~36-30, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are reenacted on~~
10 ~~June 30, 2015, pursuant to section 34 of Act 79,~~
11 ~~Session Laws of Hawaii 2009,] and~~

12 ~~[-(3)]~~ (2) The amendments made to sections 36-27(a) and 36-
13 30(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, in sections 3 and 4 of
14 this Act shall be repealed on December 31, ~~[2017-]~~
15 2018."

16 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the nursing
17 facility sustainability program special fund the sum of
18 \$14,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2017-2018 for uses consistent with the nursing facility
20 sustainability program special fund.



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

3 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 9. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
6 on June 29, 2017; provided that section 7 shall take effect on
7 July 1, 2017.

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Report Title:

Nursing Facility Sustainability Program; Appropriation

Description:

Continues the nursing facility sustainability program for one additional year. Appropriates funds out of the nursing facility sustainability program special fund for fiscal year 2017-2018.

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

