
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Fair Share Health Care Disclosure Act".

3 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that public assistance
4 programs are essential to ensuring that all residents have
5 access to healthy food, quality health insurance, basic needs,
6 cash assistance, child care, and income supports. These
7 programs have helped millions of individuals to rise out of
8 poverty.

9 The legislature further finds that some employers have
10 abused public assistance programs by providing their employees
11 with low wages and poor benefits with the intention or
12 expectation that the employees will enroll in public assistance
13 programs to subsidize their income. Nationwide, this business
14 strategy costs taxpayers billions of dollars per year and puts
15 responsible businesses at a competitive disadvantage. For
16 example, more than sixty per cent of enrollees in medicaid and



1 the children's health insurance program are members of working
2 families.

3 The legislature believes that large, profitable employers
4 should pay wages and benefits that do not impoverish workers or
5 shift costs to taxpayers.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
7 human services to compile data and identify employers that have
8 numerous employees enrolled in public assistance programs so
9 that the legislature and other policy makers will have a deeper
10 understanding of the causes and sources of underemployment,
11 poverty wages, and the economic impacts on society, business,
12 and the state budget.

13 SECTION 3. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
15 designated and to read as follows:

16 "§346- Fair share health care disclosure; report. (a)
17 The department shall compile data regarding employers having
18 employees who receive public assistance, including benefits
19 under the state medicaid program and other services or other
20 benefits administered by the department, by reviewing employment
21 information submitted to the department by recipients. The



1 department shall submit a report to the legislature no later
2 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session
3 identifying the fifty employers having the highest number of
4 employees who were recipients during the previous fiscal year.

5 (b) The report shall also include the following for each
6 of the fifty employers:

7 (1) The employer's address;

8 (2) The number of full-time and part-time employees during
9 the previous year;

10 (3) The number of recipients employed by the employer
11 during the previous fiscal year;

12 (4) The number of recipients who were a spouse or
13 dependent of an employee;

14 (5) The state cost of providing public assistance to the
15 employees, spouses of employees, and dependents of
16 employees, if available; and

17 (6) The number of employees who were also recipients and
18 were eligible to receive employer-provided health
19 benefits in excess of the minimum requirements
20 established by chapter 393.



1 (c) The report shall not include the names or other
2 personally identifiable information of any employees, spouses of
3 employees, or dependents of employees and shall be subject to
4 the privacy standards established pursuant to the Health
5 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law
6 104-191, and its related regulations, as may be amended.

7 (d) The department of labor and industrial relations shall
8 assist the department in complying with this section, including
9 sharing employment data.

10 (e) As used in this section, "recipients" means employees
11 who receive public assistance as described in subsection (a)."

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Public Assistance; Department of Human Services; Employer;
Employee; Report

Description:

Requires DHS to compile information regarding employers with employees who receive public assistance. Requires DHS to submit an annual report to legislature on the 50 employers with the highest number of employees receiving public assistance. Requires DLIR to share employment data. (HB1647 HD2)

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