
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO MEDICAID.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 346-29, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:
3 "(b) No applicant or recipient who is found guilty of
4 fraudulently misrepresenting residence to obtain assistance in
5 two or more states shall be entitled to public assistance under
6 this chapter for ten years from date of conviction. No
7 applicant or recipient shall be entitled to public assistance
8 under this chapter who is a fugitive felon or who is in
9 violation of a condition of probation or parole or has
10 sufficient income or other resources to provide a standard above
11 that provided in this chapter, or who is an inmate of any public
12 institution, except that any inmate of a public institution who
13 is otherwise eligible for medical assistance and who has been
14 determined by the medical director of the institution as having
15 a major illness or medical condition requiring the provision of
16 medical care outside of the institution may receive assistance
17 under this chapter. Medicaid benefits for an inmate of any



1 public institution shall be suspended, rather than terminated,
2 upon incarceration. An inmate shall remain enrolled for
3 medicaid benefits as long as all other eligibility criteria are
4 met. An inmate of a public institution or resident of a medical
5 institution that was previously not eligible for assistance may
6 apply for assistance to begin after the inmate's discharge from
7 the institution. To enforce this subsection, the department
8 shall examine each list of inmates within, or newly admitted to,
9 a correctional facility in the State that is submitted to the
10 department by the director of public safety pursuant to section
11 353-12.5, regardless of the nature of the offense for which an
12 inmate is incarcerated or the duration of incarceration, to
13 determine whether an inmate is eligible for public assistance
14 under this chapter."

15 SECTION 2. Section 353H-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

17 "(b) The department, in collaboration with appropriate
18 federal, state, and county agencies, shall inform inmates of the
19 availability of departmental assistance to obtain the inmate's
20 birth certificate, social security card, and any other relevant
21 identification documents necessary for the inmate to transition



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1 into the workforce, access social services, secure or verify
 2 applicable medicaid eligibility, and secure housing, and upon
 3 request shall assist the inmates who have one year or less prior
 4 to the inmate's parole or release date."

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Medicaid; Inmate; Public Institution; Prisons; Jails;
Correctional Facilities

Description:

Requires the Department of Human Services to suspend rather than terminate an individual's medicaid eligibility upon entry into a correctional facility. Requires the Department of Public Safety to inform inmates of the availability of assistance to secure or verify applicable medicaid eligibility prior to an inmate's release.

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