
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. It is estimated that one in five hundred
2 children in the State are born with orofacial anomalies such as
3 cleft lip or cleft palate. Orthodontic services for the
4 treatment of orofacial anomalies are not included as a benefit
5 of commercial health plans. Without orthodontic treatment,
6 appropriate care and reconstructive surgical outcomes are
7 compromised and result in functional deficiencies in chewing,
8 swallowing, respiration, speech, unstable or malpositioned oral
9 structures, premature tooth loss, and other health problems.

10 Orthodontic services have for several years been a covered
11 benefit of the Hawaii medicaid program.

12 The legislature finds that the state auditor's 2014 sunrise
13 study on the advisability of mandating insurance coverage for
14 orofacial anomalies, Report No. 14-08, found that coverage
15 should be required as it would provide a substantial social
16 benefit in exchange for a minimal cost to private insurers.
17 Coverage would mitigate a significant financial hardship for



1 working families whose private medical insurance does not cover
2 medically necessary orthodontic services for their children born
3 with orofacial anomalies. The legislature further finds that
4 overall treatment costs are not likely to increase due to the
5 limited usage of those services by such a small portion of the
6 general population.

7 The purpose of this Act is to promote accessibility to
8 quality health care procedures in the State by requiring health
9 insurance coverage of medically necessary orthodontic treatment
10 of orofacial anomalies.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to article 10A to be
13 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

14 **"§431:10A- Orthodontic services for orofacial anomalies;**
15 **benefits and coverage; notice.** (a) Each individual and group
16 accident and health or sickness insurance policy, contract,
17 plan, or agreement issued or renewed in this State after
18 December 31, 2015, shall provide to the policyholder and
19 individuals under twenty-six years of age covered under the
20 policy, contract, plan, or agreement, coverage of medically



1 necessary orthodontic services for the treatment of orofacial
2 anomalies resulting from birth defects or syndromes.

3 (b) Every insurer shall provide written notice to its
4 policyholders regarding the coverage required by this section.

5 The notice shall be in writing and prominently positioned in any
6 literature or correspondence sent to policyholders and shall be
7 transmitted to policyholders within calendar year 2016 when
8 annual information is made available to members or in any other
9 mailing to members, but in no case later than December 31, 2016.

10 (c) Orthodontic services for treatment of orofacial
11 anomalies provided under this section shall be subject to a
12 maximum benefit of \$5,500 per treatment phase, but shall not be
13 subject to limits on the number of visits to an orthodontist.
14 After December 31, 2016, the insurance commissioner, on an
15 annual basis, shall adjust the maximum benefit for inflation
16 using the medical care component of the United States Department
17 of Labor Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers. The
18 commissioner shall publish the adjusted maximum benefit annually
19 no later than April 1 of each calendar year, which shall apply
20 during the following calendar year to accident and health or
21 sickness insurance policies subject to this section. Payments



1 made by an insurer on behalf of a covered individual for any
2 care, treatment, intervention, or service other than orthodontic
3 services, shall not be applied toward any maximum benefit
4 established under this subsection.

5 (d) Coverage under this section may be subject to
6 copayment, deductible, and coinsurance provisions of an accident
7 and health or sickness insurance policy that are no less
8 favorable than the copayment, deductible, and coinsurance
9 provisions for other medical services covered by the policy.

10 (e) This section shall not be construed as limiting
11 benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under an
12 accident and health or sickness insurance policy.

13 (f) Coverage for treatment under this section shall not be
14 denied on the basis that the treatment is habilitative or non-
15 restorative in nature.

16 (g) This section shall not apply to limited benefit health
17 insurance as provided pursuant to section 431:10A-102.5.

18 (h) As used in this section, unless the context clearly
19 requires otherwise:



1 "Orofacial anomalies" means cleft lip or cleft palate and
2 other birth defects of the mouth and face affecting functions
3 such as eating, chewing, speech, and respiration.

4 "Orthodontic services" mean direct or consultative services
5 provided by a licensed orthodontist.

6 "Treatment for orofacial anomalies" includes the care
7 prescribed, provided, or ordered for an individual diagnosed
8 with an orofacial anomaly by a craniofacial team that includes a
9 licensed dentist, orthodontist, oral surgeon, and physician, and
10 is coordinated between specialists and providers."

11 SECTION 3. Chapter 432, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to article 1 to be appropriately
13 designated and to read as follows:

14 "§432:1- Orthodontic services for orofacial anomalies,
15 benefits and coverage; notice. (a) Notwithstanding any law to
16 the contrary, each individual and group hospital or medical
17 service plan contract issued or renewed in this State after
18 December 31, 2015, shall provide to the member and individuals
19 under twenty-six years of age covered under the plan contract
20 coverage for medically necessary orthodontic services for the



1 treatment of orofacial anomalies resulting from birth defects or
2 syndromes.

3 (b) Every mutual benefit society shall provide written
4 notice to its members regarding the coverage required by this
5 section. The notice shall be in writing and prominently
6 positioned in any literature or correspondence sent to members
7 and shall be transmitted to members within calendar year 2016
8 when annual information is made available to members or in any
9 other mailing to members, but in no case later than December 31,
10 2016.

11 (c) Coverage provided under this section shall be subject
12 to a maximum benefit of \$5,500 per treatment phase but shall not
13 be subject to any limits on the number of visits to an
14 orthodontist. After December 31, 2016, the insurance
15 commissioner, on an annual basis, shall adjust the maximum
16 benefit for inflation, using the medical care component of the
17 United States Department of Labor Consumer Price Index for all
18 urban consumers. The commissioner shall publish the adjusted
19 maximum benefit annually no later than April 1 of each calendar
20 year, which shall apply during the following calendar year to
21 the plan contracts subject to this section. Payments made by a



1 mutual benefit society on behalf of a covered individual for any
2 care, treatment, intervention, service, or item, the provision
3 of which was for the treatment of a health condition unrelated
4 to the covered individual's orofacial anomaly, shall not be
5 applied toward any maximum benefit established under this
6 subsection.

7 (d) Coverage under this section shall be subject to
8 copayment, deductible, and coinsurance provisions of a plan
9 contract to the extent that other medical services covered by
10 the plan contract are subject to these provisions.

11 (e) This section shall not be construed as limiting
12 benefits that are otherwise available to an individual under a
13 plan contract.

14 (f) This section shall not apply to limited benefit health
15 insurance as provided pursuant to section 431:10A-102.5

16 (g) As used in this section, unless the context clearly
17 requires otherwise:

18 "Orofacial anomalies" means cleft lip or cleft palate and
19 other birth defects of the mouth and face affecting functions
20 such as eating, chewing, speech, and respiration.



1 "Orthodontic services" means direct or consultative
2 services provided by a licensed orthodontist.

3 "Treatment for orofacial anomalies" includes the care
4 prescribed, provided, or ordered for an individual diagnosed
5 with an orofacial anomaly by a craniofacial team that includes a
6 licensed dentist, orthodontist, oral surgeon, and physician, and
7 is coordinated between specialists and providers."

8 SECTION 4. Section 432D-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **"§432D-23 Required provisions and benefits.**

11 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each
12 policy, contract, plan, or agreement issued in the State after
13 January 1, 1995, by health maintenance organizations pursuant to
14 this chapter, shall include benefits provided in sections
15 431:10-212, 431:10A-115, 431:10A-115.5, 431:10A-116, 431:10A-
16 116.2, 431:10A-116.5, 431:10A-116.6, 431:10A-119, 431:10A-120,
17 431:10A-121, 431:10A-122, 431:10A-125, 431:10A-126, [~~431:10A-~~
18 ~~122, and 431:10A-116.2,~~] and 431:10A- , and chapter 431M."

19 SECTION 5. The coverage and benefits to be provided by a
20 health maintenance organization under section 4 of this Act
21 shall begin for all policies, contracts, plans, or agreements



1 issued in this State by a health maintenance organization after
2 December 31, 2015.

3 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

Health Insurance; Orthodontic Treatment; Orofacial Anomalies

Description:

Requires health insurance coverage of orthodontic treatment for orofacial anomalies. (HB174 HD2)

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

