
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DENTAL CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. In 2006, the legislature appropriated funds to
2 the department of human services to restore specific preventive
3 and restorative dental services for eligible persons twenty-one
4 years-of-age or older under the State's medicaid and QUEST
5 programs. Previously, dental coverage for eligible adults was
6 limited to dental emergencies. According to a recent department
7 of health report, each eligible adult can receive specific
8 preventive and restorative services, including dentures,
9 equivalent to \$500. However, this does not include coverage for
10 endodontic care, root canals, crowns, elective procedures, or
11 periodontal surgery. Also, partial and full dentures generally
12 cost more than \$500.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

14 (1) Expand coverage under medicaid and QUEST to include
15 comprehensive dental care coverage for eligible
16 persons twenty-one years-of-age or older and to
17 appropriate funds to provide the additional coverage;



- 1 (2) Appropriate funds for hospital dentistry for the
- 2 developmentally disabled in the county of Hawaii; and
- 3 (3) Establish a task force comprised of various
- 4 stakeholders to assist in developing ways to recruit
- 5 and retain dental care practitioners, licensed under
- 6 chapters 447 and 448, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
- 7 support the provision of the expanded coverage.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 10 and to read as follows:

11 "§346- Dental care coverage. The department shall
 12 provide comprehensive coverage to medicaid and QUEST recipients
 13 for dental care administered by licensed practitioners under
 14 chapters 447 and 448.

15 The department shall administer this benefit in a manner
 16 that meets federal requirements that are a condition of the
 17 receipt of federal funds by the State.

18 For purposes of this section, "comprehensive coverage"
 19 means the dental benefit as defined in the Hawaii state plan for
 20 medicaid."

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to
2 expand coverage under medicaid and QUEST to include
3 comprehensive dental care coverage for persons twenty-one years
4 of age or older.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
10 hospital dentistry for the developmentally disabled community in
11 the county of Hawaii.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the dental
13 division of the department of health for the purposes of this
14 Act.

15 SECTION 5. (a) The department of human services shall
16 convene a task force composed of various stakeholders, including
17 the department of health, the Hawaii Dental Association,
18 interested dental care practitioners, at least one
19 representative of a federally qualified health center, and
20 advocates to assist in developing ways to recruit and retain
21 dental care practitioners, licensed under chapters 447 and 448,



1 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to support the provision of the
2 expanded coverage under this Act.

3 (b) The task force shall submit a report to the
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the 2008 regular session. The task force shall cease to exist
6 upon the adjournment sine die of the 2008 regular session.

7 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008;
9 provided that section 5 shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Medical Assistance; Adult Dental Care

Description:

Expands coverage under the State's medicaid and QUEST programs to include comprehensive dental care for adults and appropriates funds to provide the additional coverage. Appropriates funds for hospital dentistry for the developmentally disabled in the county of Hawaii. Establishes a task force. (SD1)

