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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REEXAMINE THE BASIC HEALTH PLAN UNDER THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ONCE FEDERAL RULES HAVE BEEN ISSUED AND TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE FEDERAL SECTION 1115 WAIVER GRANTED TO HAWAII TO RAISE THE MEDICAID INCOME ELIGIBILITY CEILING TO PROVIDE THE GREATEST HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF HAWAII'S PEOPLE.

1           WHEREAS, in 1994, a statewide Medicaid demonstration named  
2 Hawaii QUEST Expanded was implemented through a federal section  
3 1115 waiver, and pregnant women, children, and non-disabled  
4 adults with incomes of up to three hundred percent of the  
5 federal poverty level were made eligible; and  
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7           WHEREAS, in 1996, the program made several significant  
8 changes that restricted enrollment in the QUEST program,  
9 implemented an enrollment cap of one hundred twenty-five  
10 thousand people, and established a new safety net program as a  
11 component of Hawaii QUEST Expanded called QUEST-Net that would  
12 serve those who became ineligible for QUEST due to the more  
13 stringent eligibility requirements; and  
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15           WHEREAS, in 1998, the State limited the eligibility for  
16 QUEST to those with incomes of up to one hundred percent of the  
17 federal poverty level, with pregnant women and children assigned  
18 a higher limit; and  
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20           WHEREAS, while the QUEST-Net program covered adults with  
21 incomes of up to three hundred percent of the federal poverty  
22 level, only about two hundred twenty adults were enrolled, and  
23 as of February 1, 2008, QUEST-Net became more restrictive by  
24 excluding adults with incomes of more than two hundred percent  
25 of the federal poverty level; and  
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27           WHEREAS, inflating health care costs have put individuals,  
28 especially children, at severe risk of foregoing medical care,  
29 and Hawaii needs to plan, execute, and maintain health insurance  
30 expansions to increase the availability and affordability of  
31 health care; and  
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1           WHEREAS, preliminary information suggests the Basic Health  
2 Plan under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care  
3 Act would provide new federal funding for health insurance  
4 coverage for Hawaii families with incomes between one hundred  
5 thirty-three percent to two hundred percent of the federal  
6 poverty level, a population that includes approximately four  
7 thousand five hundred individuals and was covered by the Hawaii  
8 Medicaid QUEST-ACE and QUEST-Net until recently; and  
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10           WHEREAS, benefits of the Basic Health Plan may include:

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- 12           (1) The eligibility for lawfully present non-immigrants  
13           who are under the age of sixty-five and are not  
14           eligible for Medicaid;
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  - 16           (2) The possibility of restoring benefits to Hawaii  
17           families with incomes between one hundred thirty-three  
18           percent to two hundred percent of the federal poverty  
19           level, with generous federal financial support to the  
20           State; and
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  - 22           (3) The eligibility for Compact of Free Association  
23           migrants, who are currently not eligible for federal  
24           Medicaid funding; now, therefore,
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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,  
28 that the Department of Human Services is requested to reexamine  
29 the Basic Health Plan under the federal Patient Protection and  
30 Affordable Care Act once federal rules have been issued and to  
31 consider amending the federal section 1115 waiver granted to  
32 Hawaii to raise the Medicaid income eligibility ceiling to  
33 provide the greatest health care coverage to serve the needs of  
34 Hawaii's people; and  
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36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human  
38 Services, and the Hawaii Health Authority.

