
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that people immigrate to
2 Hawaii from all over the world seeking better living conditions
3 and opportunities to work. Hawaii's businesses rely on
4 immigrant workers who frequently fill low-paying, unskilled, and
5 part-time jobs. Immigrant workers, therefore, contribute to
6 society but are vulnerable since they often lack health
7 insurance for themselves and their dependents because of work
8 status and poverty.

9 The legislature further finds that state funds are
10 appropriated to the Hawaii immigrant health initiative,
11 implemented by the department of human services. This
12 initiative ensures that basic health care is available to low-
13 income immigrants who meet medicaid eligibility criteria, but
14 who are ineligible for medicaid coverage due to the 1996 Welfare
15 Reform Act. However, funds currently available are inadequate
16 to cover needed services that are provided by community health
17 centers and other nonprofit caregivers across the State.



1 The legislature further finds that services provided under
2 the Hawaii immigrant health initiative are for preventive and
3 primary health care delivered by community health centers. The
4 medical conditions most frequently treated in this program are
5 hypertension, diabetes, pregnancy, and respiratory ailments. If
6 these conditions are not addressed through the Hawaii immigrant
7 health initiative, costs for uncompensated care delivered at
8 hospital emergency rooms and for avoidable hospitalizations will
9 be far greater and will affect public and private insurance
10 rates for all Hawaii residents.

11 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that low-income,
12 uninsured immigrants have access to primary and preventive
13 health care services.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for health
17 care services for low-income, uninsured immigrants.

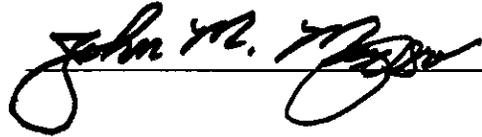
18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 human services for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2014



H.B. NO. 2540

Report Title:

Health Care; Appropriation; Low-Income Immigrants

Description:

Appropriates \$ for health care services for low-income, uninsured immigrants provided by the Hawaii immigrant health initiative. Effective July 1, 2014.

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