
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH COVERAGE FOR PORT-WINE STAINS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that port-wine stain is a
2 discoloration of the human skin caused by a vascular anomaly,
3 namely a capillary malformation in the skin. A port-wine stain
4 is usually a birthmark but in rare cases it can develop in early
5 childhood. Studies have recorded an incidence of three-to-five
6 cases per thousand newborn babies. Port-wine stains ordinarily
7 persist throughout life.

8 Port-wine stains occur most often on the face but can
9 appear anywhere on the body, particularly on the neck and upper
10 trunk. If the port-wine stain is on the face or other highly
11 visible part of the body, its presence can also cause emotional
12 and social problems for the affected person. Early stains are
13 usually flat and pink in appearance and as the child matures,
14 the color may deepen to a dark red or purplish color. In
15 adulthood, thickening of the lesion or the development of small
16 lumps may occur. In the absence of successful treatment,
17 hypertrophy, which is increased tissue mass of the stain, may



1 cause problems later in life such as loss of proximate organ
2 function especially near the eye or mouth, bleeding, and
3 increasing disfigurement. Lesions on or near the eyelid can be
4 associated with glaucoma. When port-wine stain proliferates
5 around the eyelid, it may cause ectropion, the downward pulling
6 of the lower eyelid, which may lead to corneal abrasion and loss
7 of vision.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require the auditor to
9 conduct a study to assess the social and financial effects of
10 requiring health insurers, hospital and medical services plans,
11 and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for
12 medical procedures to eliminate or provide maximum feasible
13 treatment of port-wine stains.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The auditor shall conduct a study to
15 assess the impact of the social and financial effects of
16 requiring health insurers, hospital and medical services plans,
17 and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for
18 medical procedures to eliminate or provide maximum feasible
19 treatment of port-wine stains, as provided in H.B. 1705 H.D. 1,
20 Regular Session of 2018.



1 (b) Pursuant to section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in
2 determining the social impact of the proposed mandate of health
3 coverage, the study shall include:

4 (1) The extent to which the treatment or service is
5 generally utilized by a significant portion of the
6 population;

7 (2) The extent to which such insurance coverage is already
8 generally available;

9 (3) If coverage is not generally available, the extent to
10 which the lack of coverage results in persons being
11 unable to obtain necessary health care treatment;

12 (4) If the coverage is not generally available, the extent
13 to which the lack of coverage results in unreasonable
14 financial hardship on those persons needing treatment;

15 (5) The level of public demand for the treatment or
16 service;

17 (6) The level of public demand for individual or group
18 insurance coverage of the treatment or service;

19 (7) The level of interest of collective bargaining
20 organizations in negotiating privately for inclusion
21 of this coverage in group contracts;



1 (8) The impact of providing coverage for the treatment or
2 service (such as morbidity, mortality, quality of
3 care, change in practice patterns, provider
4 competition, or related items); and

5 (9) The impact of any other indirect costs upon the costs
6 and benefits of coverage as may be deemed necessary by
7 the auditor.

8 (c) Pursuant to section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in
9 determining the financial impact of the proposed mandate of
10 health coverage, the study shall include:

11 (1) The extent to which insurance coverage of the kind
12 proposed would increase or decrease the cost of the
13 treatment or service;

14 (2) The extent to which the proposed coverage might
15 increase the use of the treatment or service;

16 (3) The extent to which the mandated treatment or service
17 might serve as an alternative for more expensive
18 treatment or service;

19 (4) The extent to which insurance coverage of the health
20 care service or provider can be reasonably expected to



1 increase or decrease the insurance premium and
2 administrative expenses of policyholders; and
3 (5) The impact of this coverage on the total cost of
4 health care.

5 (d) The auditor shall submit findings and recommendations,
6 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
7 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
8 of 2019.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
12 auditor to assess the impact of the social and financial effects
13 of requiring health insurers, hospital and medical services
14 plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage
15 for medical procedures to eliminate or provide maximum feasible
16 treatment of port-wine stains.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the auditor for
18 the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Auditor; Study; Mandated Coverage; Port-wine Stains;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the auditor to conduct a study to assess the social and financial impacts of mandating certain health insurers and plans to provide coverage for treatment of port-wine stains. (HB1705 HD2)

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