

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that women who are
2 ineligible for postpartum health coverage struggle to get
3 necessary care during the twelve months following childbirth.
4 The legislature notes that this is a critical time as women are
5 more likely to die of pregnancy-related conditions during this
6 time than during pregnancy or childbirth. Drug overdoses,
7 suicides, and pregnancy-related chronic illnesses including
8 diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure contribute to a
9 rise in deaths among women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the
10 first twelve months after childbirth.

11 The legislature also finds that, according to the United
12 States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adequate
13 medical attention could prevent three out of five postpartum
14 deaths. Further, medicaid pregnancy coverage, which pays for
15 nearly half of all births in the United States, expires sixty
16 days after childbirth, leaving many women without health
17 insurance during this vulnerable time. Although women may



1 reapply as a parent after this sixty-day time period, because
2 the income limit for parents is lower, many women are unable to
3 qualify for coverage as a parent.

4 The legislature further finds that, with increasing
5 nationwide attention on the United States' maternal mortality
6 rate, one of the highest among high-income countries, there has
7 been increasing emphasis on the importance of postpartum care
8 and the recognition that many postpartum conditions are not
9 resolved within sixty days and require ongoing care and
10 treatment. Data from the 2019 Hawaii Maternal Mortality Review
11 Committee report shows that fifty per cent of the State's
12 maternal deaths between 2015-2016 occurred in the late
13 postpartum period, which covers forty-three days to one year
14 after delivery. Under current law, the late postpartum period
15 is when many women lose their medicaid coverage and are unable
16 to obtain necessary medical care.

17 The legislature notes that, in order to improve maternal
18 health and coverage stability and to help address racial
19 disparities in maternal health, a provision in the American
20 Rescue Plan Act of 2021 gives states a new option to extend
21 medicaid postpartum coverage to twelve months via a state plan



1 amendment. This new option takes effect on April 1, 2022, and
2 is available to states for five years.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
4 state funds required to draw down the federal matching funds to
5 extend medicaid postpartum coverage to twelve months following
6 the end of pregnancy.

7 SECTION 2. 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 2022-2023 to
10 extend medicaid postpartum coverage to twelve months following
11 the end of pregnancy.

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

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

15

INTRODUCED BY: Russell H Baker



S.B. NO. 2634

Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Pregnancy; State-Funded Medical Assistance; Medicaid Coverage; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months following the end of pregnancy.

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