
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 which is a critical time, as women are more likely to die of
5 pregnancy-related conditions postpartum than during pregnancy or
6 childbirth. Drug overdoses, suicides, and pregnancy-related
7 chronic illnesses including diabetes, heart disease, and high
8 blood pressure contribute to a rise in deaths among women during
9 pregnancy, childbirth, and the first twelve months after
10 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. Medicaid pregnancy coverage, which pays for nearly half
15 of all births in the United States, expires sixty days after
16 childbirth, leaving many women without health insurance during
17 this vulnerable time. Although women may reapply as a parent



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

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

17 The legislature additionally finds that, in order to
18 improve maternal health and coverage stability and to help
19 address racial disparities in maternal health, a provision in
20 the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, gives states a
21 new option to extend medicaid postpartum coverage to twelve



1 months via a state plan amendment. This new option takes effect
2 on April 1, 2022, and 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, 2060.



S.B. NO. 2634
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates moneys to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage to twelve months following the end of pregnancy. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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2022-2420 SB2634 HD1 HMSO

