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



1 via a state plan amendment. This new option takes effect on  
2 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 December 31,  
15 2050.



**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 12/31/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

