

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' MED-QUEST DIVISION TO
ADVOCATE THAT THE STATE INCREASE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS TO
DENTISTS AND, UPON AN INCREASE APPROVAL, TO PROACTIVELY
INFORM BOTH DENTAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND MEDICAID
BENEFICIARIES OF NEW RATE PLANS.

1 WHEREAS, preventative dental cleanings and early treatment
2 result in a lower cost to the State's health care system than
3 emergency room treatment; and
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5 WHEREAS, many of the State's low-income residents delay
6 dental care, ultimately resulting in their turning to emergency
7 rooms, which can only stabilize patients and are unable to do
8 more specialized dentistry procedures that patients often need;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the Executive Supplemental Budget for fiscal year
12 2023 allocated over \$25,000,000 to the Department of Human
13 Services' Med-QUEST Division to expand services, including
14 restoring full dental benefits for adults; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Governor announced that his proposed budget
17 seeks \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and \$20,000,000 for
18 fiscal year 2025 to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates up to
19 one hundred percent of Medicare reimbursement rates; and
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21 WHEREAS, the expanded Med-QUEST dental benefits include
22 basic preventative services such as teeth cleaning, x-rays, and
23 exams and basic restoration procedures for chewing functions,
24 fillings, and crowns; and
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26 WHEREAS, Medicaid beneficiaries should be informed of the
27 restoration of benefits so they can receive proper dental care;
28 now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
32 that the Department of Human Services' Med-QUEST Division is
33 urged to advocate that the State increase Medicaid



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1 reimbursements to dentists and, upon an increase approval,
2 proactively inform both dental service providers and Medicaid
3 beneficiaries of new rate plans and covered services; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.
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OFFERED BY:

