
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE FOR IMMIGRANTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that obstacles to access
2 to health care based solely on immigration status prevent many
3 low-income immigrants and immigrants' families from obtaining
4 affordable health care coverage through medicaid, the Children's
5 Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and health insurance exchanges
6 established under part II of the Patient Protection and
7 Affordable Care Act.

8 The legislature further finds that state and federal laws
9 deny access to medicaid; CHIP, and health insurance exchanges
10 established under part II of the Patient Protection and
11 Affordable Care Act to all Deferred Action for Childhood
12 Arrivals (DACA) recipients; undocumented persons; and applicants
13 without work authorization attached to the applicant's request
14 for registry, orders of supervision, cancellation of removal or
15 suspension of deportation, legalization under the Immigration
16 Reform and Control Act, legalization under the Legal Immigration



1 Family Equity Act, and asylum, except asylee children under
2 fourteen years old.

3 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is home to an
4 estimated 41,246 undocumented and DACA-eligible persons. These
5 residents were born in the Philippines (54.6 per cent); Japan
6 (9.3 per cent); China (8.8 per cent); Korea (6.2 per cent);
7 Mexico (4.6 per cent); and Europe, Canada, and other countries
8 (16.5 per cent). Approximately eleven thousand of Hawaii's
9 undocumented and DACA-eligible residents are uninsured and
10 forty-three per cent of these residents' households have incomes
11 that fall below two hundred per cent of the federal poverty
12 level. Yet, in 2018, Hawaii's undocumented households earned
13 approximately \$804,000,000 in wages and paid an estimated
14 \$66,000,000 in federal income taxes and \$45,000,000 in state and
15 local taxes.

16 The legislature further finds that low-income immigrants
17 without access to health insurance face persistent inequities in
18 the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of health care
19 conditions, including routine health problems and those commonly
20 addressed with preventive care, prenatal and post-pregnancy



1 care, necessary specialty care, and mental health, substance
2 abuse, and oral health care.

3 The legislature further finds that the department of human
4 services oversees and manages the State's medicaid program and
5 other critical health care services. Current funding is
6 inadequate to cover needed medical services provided through
7 community health centers and other nonprofit health care
8 providers. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
9 funds to purchase health care services for low-income, uninsured
10 immigrants ineligible for medicaid, the Children's Health Care
11 Program, and health insurance exchanges established in part II
12 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
17 year 2024-2025 for the purchase of health care services for low-
18 income, uninsured immigrants ineligible for medicaid, the
19 Children's Health Care Program, and health insurance exchanges
20 established in part II of the Patient Protection and Affordable
21 Care Act; provided that, for the purposes of this Act, "low-



1 income" means an individual whose household income is at or
2 below one hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
6 2050.



Report Title:

Health Care; Immigrants; Department of Human Services;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to purchase health care services for certain low-income, uninsured immigrants. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

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