

JAN 23 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a shortage
2 of primary care physicians in the State. The shortage is partly
3 due to Hawaii's high cost of living and business costs. The
4 legislature further finds that a consistent funding stream would
5 help primary care providers stay afloat and continue operating.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a
7 consistent funding source for primary care providers.

8 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable, during the next
9 negotiation with health insurance carriers from the effective
10 date of this Act, the Hawaii employer-union benefits trust fund
11 board of trustees shall ensure that all offered health plans
12 provide twelve per cent of monthly insurance premium payments
13 directly to each respective member-patient's primary care
14 provider.

15 (b) As soon as practicable, pursuant to federal and state
16 law, the department of human services med-QUEST division shall
17 allocate twelve per cent of monthly insurance premium payments



1 directly to each respective member-patient's primary care
2 provider.

3 (c) The percentage of monthly insurance premium payments
4 described in subsections (a) and (b) shall be paid to primary
5 care providers automatically each month without regard to actual
6 services provided.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

Russ Fawcett



S.B. NO. 1646

Report Title:

DHS; Health Insurance; Healthcare; Primary Care Providers;
Physicians; EUTF; Med-QUEST; Premiums

Description:

Requires the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund Board of Trustees to negotiate with health insurance carriers to ensure that 12% of monthly premium payments are paid directly to primary care providers. Requires the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division to allocate 12% of monthly premium payments directly to primary care providers.

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