

JAN 17 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that access to high  
2 quality health care that is accessible, affordable, and  
3 equitable is of paramount importance to public health and  
4 wellness. The legislature finds however, presently,  
5 approximately five hundred pregnant persons and four thousand  
6 income-qualified children in the State are denied access to  
7 affordable health care through medicaid, the children's health  
8 insurance program, and health insurance exchanges established  
9 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law  
10 111-148, solely due to their immigration status. The  
11 legislature further finds that evidence-based studies determined  
12 that low-income immigrants without prenatal care are seven times  
13 more likely to give birth prematurely and five times more likely  
14 to experience neonatal death. These findings demonstrate that  
15 limited access to health care for pregnant persons and their  
16 newborn children significantly increases the risk of exposure to  
17 life-threatening situations.



1 As of May 2024, twenty-two states and the District of  
2 Columbia provide medicaid coverage to all income-qualified  
3 pregnant residents regardless of their immigration status. For  
4 Hawaii, with the current cost of an average neonatal intensive  
5 care unit stay being between \$7,000 and \$8,000 per day, the  
6 department of human services estimates the cost of providing  
7 income-qualified pregnant persons with health insurance coverage  
8 and twelve months of post-partum care at \$1,364,000 annually.  
9 The legislature also finds that providing greater access to  
10 health insurance coverage for income-qualified pregnant persons  
11 will help lower barriers and increase access to health care for  
12 resident immigrant populations in the State.

13 Similarly, low-income immigrant children without access to  
14 health care services experience a higher rate of preventable  
15 hospitalizations during childhood. Without appropriate medical  
16 management, chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes may  
17 lead to life-threatening medical emergencies. Additionally,  
18 inadequate access to preventative care such as immunizations and  
19 well-being visits may aggravate various health conditions,  
20 increasing the occurrence of acute and chronic conditions, and



1 can leave developmental health conditions undiagnosed and  
2 untreated.

3 As of June 2024, twelve states and the District of Columbia  
4 provide medicaid coverage to income-eligible children regardless  
5 of immigration status. For Hawaii, the department of human  
6 services estimates the cost of providing income-qualified  
7 children with health insurance coverage under the federal health  
8 services initiative program at \$2,976,000, with a wholly funded  
9 state program estimated at \$9,600,000. The legislature  
10 additionally finds that increasing access to health insurance  
11 coverage for income-qualified children will improve health care  
12 outcomes for all keiki, regardless of immigration status.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
14 funds to the department of human services to authorize medicaid  
15 coverage to income-qualified pregnant persons and children  
16 regardless of immigration status.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
21 year 2026-2027 to provide medicaid coverage through the



1 children's health insurance program for income-qualified  
2 pregnant persons who are otherwise ineligible due to their  
3 immigration status.

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

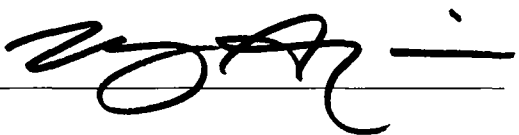
6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
9 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
10 year 2026-2027 to provide medicaid coverage through the  
11 children's health insurance program for income-qualified  
12 children who are otherwise ineligible due to their immigration  
13 status.

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "V. J. ...", written over a horizontal line.

# S.B. NO. 713

**Report Title:**

DHS; CHIP; Medicaid Coverage; Pregnant Persons; Children;  
Immigration Status; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to provide health insurance through Medicaid's Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified children and pregnant persons regardless of their immigration status.

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

