

JAN 28 2026

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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 recent changes to  
2 the immunization recommendations provided by the Advisory  
3 Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States  
4 Department of Health and Human Services differ significantly  
5 from established medical standards and practice, such as the  
6 immunization recommendations provided by the American Academy of  
7 Pediatrics. The legislature also finds that insurance companies  
8 have only publicly committed to providing coverage of vaccines  
9 that were part of the Advisory Committee's recommendations made  
10 prior to September 2025 until the end of 2026. However, to  
11 protect the freedom of choice for the people of Hawaii to  
12 comprehensively consider the full range of prevailing medical  
13 standards when it comes to childhood immunization, there must be  
14 clarity regarding what their insurance will cover.

15           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to clarify that the  
16 department of health is to presume both the recommendations by  
17 the American Academy of Pediatrics and the recommendations by



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1 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United  
2 States Department of Health and Human Services constitute the  
3 prevailing medical standard for child health supervision  
4 services for purposes of health insurance coverage.

5 SECTION 2. Section 431:10A-115.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
6 is amended to by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as  
7 follows:

8 "(b) Child health supervision services shall include  
9 twelve visits at approximately the following intervals: birth;  
10 two months; four months; six months; nine months; twelve months;  
11 fifteen months; eighteen months; two years; three years; four  
12 years; and five years. Services to be covered at each visit  
13 shall include a history, physical examination, developmental  
14 assessment, anticipatory guidance, immunizations, and laboratory  
15 tests, in keeping with the prevailing medical [~~standards.~~]  
16 standard. For purposes of this subsection, [~~the term~~  
17 "~~prevailing medical standards~~"] "prevailing medical standard"  
18 means the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on  
19 Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health  
20 and Human Services and the American Academy of Pediatrics;  
21 provided that if the recommendations of the committee and the



1 academy differ, the department of health shall [~~determine which~~  
2 ~~recommendations shall apply.~~] presume that the recommendations  
3 of both the committee and the academy constitute the prevailing  
4 medical standard. The department shall only deviate from this  
5 presumption to recommend more comprehensive coverage or if the  
6 department finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a  
7 specific recommendation is not in the best interests of public  
8 health.

9 (c) Minimum benefits may be limited to one visit payable  
10 to one provider for all of the services provided at each visit  
11 cited in this section, except that the limitations authorized by  
12 this subsection shall not apply to immunizations recommended by  
13 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United  
14 States Department of Health and Human Services and the American  
15 Academy of Pediatrics; provided that if the recommendations of  
16 the committee and the academy differ, the department of health  
17 shall [~~determine which recommendations shall apply~~ presume that  
18 the recommendations of both the committee and the academy  
19 constitute the prevailing medical standard. The department  
20 shall only deviate from this presumption to recommend more  
21 comprehensive coverage or if the department finds, by clear and



1 convincing evidence, that a specific recommendation is not in  
2 the best interests of public health."

3 SECTION 3. Section 431:10A-206.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
4 is amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as  
5 follows:

6 "(b) Child health supervision services shall include  
7 twelve visits at approximately the following intervals: birth;  
8 two months; four months; six months; nine months; twelve months;  
9 fifteen months; eighteen months; two years; three years; four  
10 years; and five years. Services to be covered at each visit  
11 shall include a history, physical examination, developmental  
12 assessment, anticipatory guidance, immunizations, and laboratory  
13 tests, in keeping with the prevailing medical [~~standards.~~]  
14 standard. For purposes of this subsection, [~~the term~~  
15 "~~prevailing medical standards~~"] "prevailing medical standard"  
16 means the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on  
17 Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health  
18 and Human Services and the American Academy of Pediatrics;  
19 provided that if the recommendations of the committee and the  
20 academy differ, the department of health shall [~~determine which~~  
21 ~~recommendations shall apply.~~] presume that the recommendations



1 of both the committee and the academy constitute the prevailing  
2 medical standard. The department shall only deviate from this  
3 presumption to recommend more comprehensive coverage or if the  
4 department finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a  
5 specific recommendation is not in the best interests of public  
6 health.

7 (c) Minimum benefits may be limited to one visit payable  
8 to one provider for all of the services provided at each visit  
9 cited in this section, except that the limitations authorized by  
10 this subsection shall not apply to immunizations recommended by  
11 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United  
12 States Department of Health and Human Services and the American  
13 Academy of Pediatrics; provided that if the recommendations of  
14 the committee and the academy differ, the department of health  
15 shall [~~determine which recommendations shall apply.~~] presume  
16 that the recommendations of both the committee and the academy  
17 constitute the prevailing medical standard. The department  
18 shall only deviate from this presumption to recommend more  
19 comprehensive coverage or if the department finds, by clear and  
20 convincing evidence, that a specific recommendation is not in  
21 the best interests of public health."



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1 SECTION 4. Section 432:1-602.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 is amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as  
3 follows:

4 "(b) Child health supervision services shall include  
5 twelve visits at approximately the following intervals: birth;  
6 two months; four months; six months; nine months; twelve months;  
7 fifteen months; eighteen months; two years; three years; four  
8 years; and five years. Services to be covered at each visit  
9 shall include a history, physical examination, developmental  
10 assessment, anticipatory guidance, immunizations, and laboratory  
11 tests, in keeping with the prevailing medical [standards.]  
12 standard. For purposes of this subsection, [~~the term~~  
13 ~~"prevailing medical standards"~~] "prevailing medical standard"  
14 means the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on  
15 Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health  
16 and Human Services and the American Academy of Pediatrics;  
17 provided that if the recommendations of the committee and the  
18 academy differ, the department of health shall [~~determine which~~  
19 ~~recommendations shall apply.~~] presume that the recommendations  
20 of both the committee and the academy constitute the prevailing  
21 medical standard. The department shall only deviate from this



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1 presumption to recommend more comprehensive coverage or if the  
2 department finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a  
3 specific recommendation is not in the best interests of public  
4 health.

5 (c) Minimum benefits may be limited to one visit payable  
6 to one provider for all of the services provided at each visit  
7 cited in this section, except that the limitations authorized by  
8 this subsection shall not apply to immunizations recommended by  
9 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United  
10 States Department of Health and Human Services and the American  
11 Academy of Pediatrics; provided that if the recommendations of  
12 the committee and the academy differ, the department of health  
13 shall [~~determine which recommendations shall apply.~~] presume  
14 that the recommendations of both the committee and the academy  
15 constitute the prevailing medical standard. The department  
16 shall only deviate from this presumption to recommend more  
17 comprehensive coverage or if the department finds, by clear and  
18 convincing evidence, that a specific recommendation is not in  
19 the best interests of public health."

20 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



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1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Hunt W. Bentley*



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**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Child Health Supervision Services;  
Immunization; Prevailing Medical Standard; Recommendations

**Description:**

Clarifies that the Department of Health is to presume both the recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health and Human Services constitute the prevailing medical standard for child health supervision services for purposes of health insurance coverage.

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

