

JAN 17 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that basic dental care is
2 an essential health service. Inadequate oral health care may
3 result in heart problems, systemic infections, low birth
4 weights, and poor outcomes for pregnant women. Periodontitis is
5 a bacterial gum infection that can lead to the destruction of
6 bone and fibers that support the teeth and may result in tooth
7 loss. More importantly, periodontitis is a cause for concern
8 among pregnant women because such infections produce byproducts
9 and chemicals that reach the uterus and may cause premature
10 births at a rate seven times greater than in women who do not
11 have periodontitis. Premature birth can lead to serious
12 consequences, is the leading cause of neonatal death, and can
13 cause lifelong health problems such as mental retardation,
14 blindness, chronic lung disease, and cerebral palsy.

15 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of
16 human services to expand the QUEST and medicaid programs by



1 providing periodontal care to pregnant women enrolled in those
2 programs at a maximum of \$500 per person per year.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
6 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2008-2009, to provide periodontal care to pregnant women
8 enrolled in QUEST or medicaid.

9 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
10 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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Report Title:

Dental Health; QUEST/Medicaid; Pregnant Women

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of human services to expand their QUEST and medicaid programs to provide periodontal care to pregnant women. Limits benefits to \$500 per person per year.

