

Notice of Proposal to Amend QUEST Expanded Demonstration Project

The Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) is providing official notification concerning a proposal to amend the QUEST Expanded Demonstration Project. The amendment will be filed with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The amendment does not affect the existing QUEST, QExA, QUEST-Net, or QUEST-ACE programs. It will amend the Hawaii Premium Plus program that was established to stimulate economic growth by encouraging job creation through offering assistance in reducing the cost of employee health care coverage. DHS currently reimburses eligible employers approximately 50% of their health care coverage premium for new hires.

The key element of the proposed amendment is to remove the requirement that the employee had been receiving unemployment insurance or had exhausted their unemployment insurance benefit. The new employee still must have been unemployed for a minimum of 6 weeks.

This change is not expected to have any effect on estimated cost of the program that has a maximum enrollment of 6,450 employees. The State is requesting an effective date of August 1, 2010.

A copy of the proposed amendments will be mailed at NO COST to any interested person by requesting a copy by writing to:

Department of Human Services
Med-QUEST Division
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

or by calling 692-8132. Neighbor island residents may request a copy of the proposed amendments at NO COST by contacting the Med-QUEST Division Sections as noted below.

East Hawaii Section
88 Kanoelehua Avenue, Room 107
Hilo, Hawaii 96720 (933-0339)

West Hawaii Section
Lanihau Professional Center
75-5591 Palani Road, Ste. 3004
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 (327-4970)

Kauai Section
4473 Pahee Street, Suite A
Lihue, Hawaii 96766 (241-3575)

Maui Section
210 Imi Kala Street, Suite 101
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 (243-5780)

Molokai Section
State Civic Center
65 Makaena Street, Room 110
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748 (553-1758)

Lanai Unit
Call toll free 1-800-894-5755

A copy of the proposed amendments will be available for public viewing from the first working day that the legal notice appears in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Hawaii Tribune Herald, West Hawaii Today, The Maui News, and The Garden Island for a period of thirty days after the publication of this notice, from Monday – Friday, exclusive of state holidays and furlough days, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the appropriate Med-QUEST Division offices on their respective islands listed above. On Oahu, the proposed amendments will be available at 601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 518, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707, between the hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and 801 Dillingham Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., from Monday – Friday, exclusive of state holidays and furlough days.

Written comments concerning the proposal to amend the State's QUEST Expanded Section 1115 waiver demonstration will be accepted from all interested parties for a period of thirty days after the publication of this notice. Please send all written comments to:

Department of Human Services
Med-QUEST Division
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

Special accommodations (i.e., Sign Language Interpreter, large print, taped materials, or accessible parking) can be made by calling 692-8132. Neighbor island residents needing special accommodations should contact the Med-QUEST Division Sections on the respective islands with their requests.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LILLIAN B. KOLLER, DIRECTOR