

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 8, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2761

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 2761, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Women's Health."

The purposes of this bill are to require the Department of Human Services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend the State's Medicaid plan to extend post-partum and interconception care from eight weeks to a minimum of six months and to require the Department to report to the Legislature when it receives a response.

This bill is objectionable due to its potential adverse fiscal impacts. Women enrolled in the State's QUEST program already receive approximately two months of post-partum and interconception care after pregnancy ends. Any expansion of these benefits will require prior approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and, if approved, the appropriation of State funds. Adding expanded services to the QUEST program will increase overall costs. It would not be prudent to seek an expansion of this program given recent Council on Revenues' economic projections and existing budget restrictions.

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For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill
2761 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Lingle', written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii