

Pacific Daily News

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A Gannett Newspaper

VOL. 42 NO. 50 HAGÁTÑA, GUAM, MARCH 23, 2010

HAFA ADAI, IT'S TUESDAY

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75¢ on Guam



■ Don't forget to vote in today's Pacific Daily News poll. Today's question:

Do you agree with the health care reform measure passed by the House?

■ Results from yesterday's PDN poll are on **PAGE 2**

GMH CAPACITY

▲ GMH adult beds were at 85% of capacity and maternal child beds were at 75% of capacity as of 7 p.m. yesterday. No patients were waiting for beds. For updated information, call the

A Special Report

House passes health reform

Measure would increase Guam Medicaid cap

IMPACT FOR GUAM

Some of the Guam-specific impact of the historic health-care reform legislation passed by the House of Representatives:

▲ Starting in fiscal year 2011, the Medicaid Cap will increase to approximately \$24 million. For fiscal year 2012, the Medicaid cap will increase to \$42 million and increases will continue until fiscal year 2019 when Guam's Medicaid funding will be roughly \$58 million. Further, the overall federal share of health-care costs will be increased.

▲ Guam will continue to have flexibility in implementing Medicaid to meet local needs and the new funding puts the territories on a path to full parity.

▲ Guam will have the option to create a local health insurance exchange where those who are eligi-

ble and uninsured can purchase affordable health insurance. A total of \$1 billion is specifically appropriated for the territories between 2014 and 2019 for this purpose.

▲ Each territory will have a one-time option to "opt-in" to state (or territory)-based insurance exchanges in 2014. If Guam opts out of the insurance exchange, its share of funds will be allotted to Guam's Medicaid funding instead.

▲ Military Health Care System and the Veterans Health Care System will not be affected by the new health care reforms, because these programs and TRICARE already meet the minimum standards for health insurance plans for military personnel and veterans.

Source: Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo's office

By Amritha Alladi

Pacific Daily News
aalladi@guampdn.com

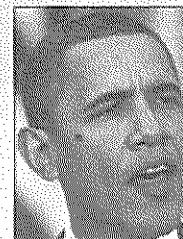
Months after the health-care reform bill seemed to have fallen dormant, the U.S. House of Representatives in a 219-212 vote yesterday passed a historic reform bill that extends health insurance coverage to 32 million Americans who currently are uninsured.

The \$940 billion overhaul forces insurance companies to comply with federal regulations, and they will no longer be allowed to drop

coverage based on pre-existing medical conditions, The Associated Press reported.

Furthermore, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the legislation also would cut deficits by an estimated \$138 billion over a decade. If realized, the expansion of coverage would include 95 percent of all eligible individuals under age 65, the AP reported.

"What will be good for Guam and for the rest of the country is the bill will attempt to cover



Obama

INSIDE

▲ **At a glance:** Learn more about the reform legislation.

Page 4

▲ **Analysis:** Will voters buy into the reform measure?

Page 8

▲ See **Health**, Page 4