

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES TO EXPEDITE THE ADOPTION OF RULES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 91, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, AND TO OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL WAIVERS, IF NECESSARY, TO DISALLOW MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ROUTINE CIRCUMCISION FOR NEWBORN MALE INFANTS IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, circumcision of young males has been a long-  
2 standing tradition among adherents to certain religions  
3 including Judaism, and Christians eventually adopted the  
4 practice, although it is unclear why; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, it is also unclear why one million two hundred  
7 thousand circumcisions are performed in the United States each  
8 year--more than in any other country when this operation is  
9 considered a medically unnecessary procedure; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American  
12 Academy of Family Practitioners, and the American Medical  
13 Association, have all published statements that do not support  
14 routine neonatal circumcisions; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, although there are potential medical benefits,  
17 such as reduced incidence of urinary tract infections in  
18 circumcised male infants under one year of age and reduced risk  
19 of penile cancer in uncircumcised men, these risks are minimal--  
20 fewer than one per cent of uncircumcised baby boys get such  
21 infections and penile cancer is quite rare; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, on the other hand, potential adverse complications  
24 of circumcision are more likely and include bleeding, poor  
25 cosmetic results, adhesions, scarring of the urethral opening,  
26 infection, and, in very rare cases, penile amputation or death;  
27 and

28  
29           WHEREAS, parents have chosen circumcision for their newborn  
30 sons so that their sons will "look" normal and for purposes of



1 hygiene when, in fact, up to eighty-five per cent of the world's  
2 male population is not circumcised and, except in rare cases,  
3 hygiene is not an issue for most males; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, in the United States, the cost of routine  
6 circumcisions ranges from \$150,000,000 to \$270,000,000 each  
7 year; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, in certain states, such as Virginia, Medicaid  
10 still pays for circumcisions when the cost savings from not  
11 covering circumcisions could have paid for much of an infant's  
12 needed immunizations; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, sixteen states--Arizona, California, Florida,  
15 Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri,  
16 Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, and  
17 Washington already have disallowed Medicaid coverage of  
18 circumcision; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, in recent years, routine circumcision seems to be  
21 declining in popularity; in California, only one-third of male  
22 newborns are currently undergoing the procedure; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, newborn circumcision is not recommended by any  
25 major American, foreign, or international medical organization,  
26 is medically unnecessary and defined as an elective procedure by  
27 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and is not cost-  
28 effective; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, Medicaid is mandated to pay only for medically  
31 necessary care and not for elective care and removing  
32 circumcision from Medicaid coverage will improve Hawaii's  
33 Medicaid program by making the cost savings available to cover  
34 other Medicaid needs; now, therefore,

35  
36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
38 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Human  
39 Services is requested to expedite the adoption of rules in  
40 accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and to  
41 obtain any federal waivers, if necessary, to disallow Medicaid  
42 coverage for routine circumcision for newborn male infants in  
43 Hawaii; and

44



# H.C.R. NO. 186

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services  
 2 is requested to calculate the resulting cost savings and  
 3 formulate a plan to reallocate those cost savings to other  
 4 Medicaid needs; and

5  
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services  
 7 is requested to submit its plan to the Legislature not later  
 8 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
 9 of 2007; and

10  
 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
 13 Services who, in turn, is requested to distribute copies to all  
 14 health care providers in Hawaii who perform circumcision  
 15 procedures reimbursed by Medicaid, the Director of Health, and  
 16 the President of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

17  
 18  
 19

OFFERED BY:

*Alan G. Urutika*

*Josh Green*

*Richard J. P. Cabanilla*

*Helene H. Hale*

MAR 15 2006

