

MAR 15 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR NATUROPATHY AND
ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE IN ALL FIFTY STATES.

1 WHEREAS, alternative, complementary, and integrative forms
2 of health care are becoming more mainstream due to consumer
3 demand and a growing body of scientific evidence demonstrating
4 its benefits and cost-effectiveness; and
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6 WHEREAS, the majority of health insurance companies only
7 cover traditional, Western health care services which tend to be
8 more expensive and pharmaceutically-based; and
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10 WHEREAS, state laws require health care providers to be
11 licensed in order to receive payment for services and allow
12 insurers to determine which services will be covered and which
13 services need pre-authorization of licensed practitioners; and
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15 WHEREAS, many forms of alternative medicine, such as
16 naturopathy, acupuncture, and massage therapy, require
17 practitioners to be licensed; and
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19 WHEREAS, in order for the residents of Hawaii to have a
20 choice in their health care, legislation needs to be enacted to
21 require health insurers to cover alternative, complementary, and
22 integrative forms of health care services; and
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24 WHEREAS, a comparison of health care legislation in other
25 states is essential to show trends in alternative health care
26 insurance coverage, cost benefits experienced by other states,
27 and guidelines for drafting new insurance plans in Hawaii; now,
28 therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
32 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a
33 study of health insurance coverage for naturopathy and
34 alternative health care in all fifty states; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study shall include a
2 comparison of health insurance coverage mandated by other states
3 for naturopathy and alternative health care, a cost/benefits
4 analysis, and recommendations for proposed legislation; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study evaluate whether
7 mandating this health care coverage would jeopardize Hawaii's
8 ERISA exemption; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
11 Bureau is requested to report findings and recommendations,
12 including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
13 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
14 2007; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of the
18 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY:

Theranne Chun Akalana

