

MAR 14 2007

S.C.R. NO. 80

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO PASS H.R. 4, KNOWN AS THE
MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007.

1 WHEREAS, there is currently a measure before the United
2 States Senate, H.R. 4, to amend part D of title XVIII of the
3 Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human
4 Services to negotiate lower covered part D drug prices on behalf
5 of Medicare beneficiaries; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the measure passed the United States House of
8 Representatives on January 12, 2007; and

9
10 WHEREAS, this measure will save taxpayers money and result
11 in lower costs for those who need the prescriptions by providing
12 an advocate to negotiate the drug prices on their behalf; and

13
14 WHEREAS, this measure will not interfere with the free
15 market system or adversely affect pharmaceutical companies, many
16 of which have reaped large profits from the addition of millions
17 of people who have recently signed up for part D prescription
18 drug coverage; and

19
20 WHEREAS, data provided by AARP Hawaii indicates that half
21 of all of the people in Hawaii, particularly those age fifty
22 years and older and those with lower incomes, are concerned
23 about being able to afford prescription drugs; and

24
25 WHEREAS, over half of Hawaii residents who take
26 prescription drugs on a regular basis report that their drug
27 costs present a financial burden; and

28
29 WHEREAS, nearly one-third of Hawaii residents who take
30 prescription drugs on a regular basis report taking at least one
31 significant cost-reducing measure to pay for their medications;
32 and
33




1 WHEREAS, the United States Senate should pass H.R. 4 in an
2 effort to help make prescription drugs more affordable and
3 accessible to Medicare beneficiaries in Hawaii and across the
4 nation; now, therefore,

5
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
9 Senate is urged to pass H.R. 4, known as the Medicare
10 Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007; and

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
13 urged to support legislation, in general, that will result in
14 lower covered part D drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries; and

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
18 United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
19 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
20 the members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

21
22
23 OFFERED BY:


Suzanne O'Brien

