

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION  
AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO  
NEGOTIATE LOWER DRUG PRICES ON BEHALF OF MEDICARE  
BENEFICIARIES.

1 WHEREAS, data provided by AARP Hawaii shows that half of  
2 all people in Hawaii, particularly those ages 50 and older and  
3 those with lower incomes, are concerned about being able to  
4 afford prescription drugs; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, slightly over half of Hawaii's residents who are  
7 taking prescription medication on a regular basis say that  
8 paying for their drugs presents a financial burden; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, nearly one-third of our residents who regularly  
11 take prescription drugs report taking at least one significant  
12 cost-reducing measure to pay for their medication; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the opportunity to  
15 help reduce the cost of prescription drugs for Hawaii's 155,000  
16 enrolled Medicare Part D beneficiaries by strengthening the  
17 Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) through supporting  
18 legislation to give the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
19 the authority to use the bargaining power of 43 million Medicare  
20 beneficiaries to help make prescription drugs more affordable;  
21 and

22  
23 WHEREAS, Hawaii families are counting on Congress to do  
24 everything possible to help make prescription drugs more  
25 affordable and accessible to beneficiaries under the MMA; now,  
26 therefore,

27  
28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
30 that the Legislature urges the United States Congress to support  
31 legislation authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human  
32 Services to negotiate lower drug prices on behalf of Medicare  
33 beneficiaries; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
3 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
4 United States House of Representatives, and the members of  
5 Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:



