

---

---

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY THE  
FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A SMOKING CESSATION BENEFIT TO  
HAWAII QUEST BENEFICIARIES.

1           WHEREAS, smoking remains a major health issue for Hawaii's  
2 diverse people and results in more than eleven hundred deaths in  
3 the State each year; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, the Department of Health reports that in Hawaii,  
6 over seventeen per cent of adults and more than fourteen per  
7 cent of high school students smoke cigarettes; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, Hawaii's smoking-related health and medical costs  
10 total \$262,000,000 annually, of which \$91,000,000 is estimated  
11 to be Medicaid-related; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
14 reports that smoking-attributable neonatal expenditures in  
15 Hawaii total \$702,330 over one year and that these costs are  
16 completely preventable; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, helping pregnant women quit smoking would have  
19 enormous health benefits, including reducing tobacco-related  
20 spontaneous abortions, rates of low-birthweight infants,  
21 admissions to neonatal intensive care units, infant deaths from  
22 perinatal disorders, and sudden infant death syndrome; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, although the smoking rate among pregnant women in  
25 Hawaii is a relatively low 7.1 per cent, this high-risk behavior  
26 still impacts the lives of 1,200 babies every year; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women were more likely than other  
29 ethnic groups to smoke in the three months before pregnancy and



1 during the third trimester, according to the statewide Pregnancy  
2 Risk Assessment Monitoring System; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, many of the State's Medicaid beneficiaries are  
5 members of ethnic groups with traditionally high smoking  
6 prevalence rates, such as Native Hawaiians; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the QUEST program, which provides health coverage  
9 through health plans for eligible Hawaii residents, provides  
10 medical coverage to pregnant women whose gross monthly household  
11 income is no more than 185 per cent of the Federal Poverty  
12 Level; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, as of 2005, thirty-eight states' Medicaid programs  
15 offered program recipients at least one form of tobacco-  
16 dependence treatment, such as counseling or medication, but few  
17 states' Medicaid programs covered both medication and counseling  
18 as recommended by the 2000 Public Health Service clinical  
19 practice guidelines; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, in order to achieve the 2010 National Health  
22 Objective, states, including Hawaii, should offer or increase  
23 Medicaid coverage for treatment of tobacco dependence; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the Legislature has considered a proposal to  
26 expand the scope of the QUEST program to include all Medicaid  
27 beneficiaries; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, regardless of whether legislation is passed during  
30 the Regular Session of 2008, the Department of Human Services,  
31 which administers QUEST, should consider ways to provide smoking  
32 cessation counseling services to all Hawaii Medicaid  
33 beneficiaries; now, therefore,

34  
35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
37 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
38 Human Services is requested to collect data and conduct a  
39 feasibility study of developing and implementing a program to  
40 provide counseling treatment to all QUEST beneficiaries wishing  
41 to quit smoking; and



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human Services is requested to report its finding and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

*John M. Mignano*  
*Karen Chana*  
*Tom Broner*  
*Michael J. Mignano*  
*J. L. A.*

MAR 10 2008

