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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO RECOMMEND TO THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING REFORMS FOR HAWAII'S MEDICAID  
AND QUEST PROGRAMS.

1           WHEREAS, it is necessary for both the state and federal  
2 governments to take responsibility for ensuring that citizens  
3 receive medical care from the most qualified doctors and have  
4 access to the latest medical technology; and

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6           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is one of the most expensive  
7 places to live as a result of extra but necessary charges to its  
8 residents, including those necessary to receive the best  
9 possible medical care; and

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11           WHEREAS, these charges include travel costs for patients  
12 and doctors, shipping fees, and ever-increasing costs for the  
13 latest medical technology and medicine; and

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15           WHEREAS, while the State already contributes a large amount  
16 of money to medical programs, funding levels remain sorely  
17 inadequate for covering all lower-income citizens and preventing  
18 hospitals from falling into debt; and

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20           WHEREAS, while the federal government is the only entity  
21 with a budget sufficient to alleviate Hawaii's unique health  
22 care costs, the federal government's contributions to the State  
23 and its health care plan have diminished over the years; and

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25           WHEREAS, several factors contribute to Hawaii's growing  
26 need for federal assistance, including the extremely high cost  
27 of cutting-edge medical technologies, the baby boom generation's  
28 demand for expensive, institutional long-term care, the extra  
29 expenses incurred by health care facilities due to potential  
30 terrorist threats, the frequently insufficient payments received  
31 by health care providers from government payors, private



1 insurers, and patients who do not have insurance, and finally,  
2 the losses of more than \$500,000,000 incurred by the State's  
3 hospitals since 2000 due to bad debt and charity care; now,  
4 therefore,

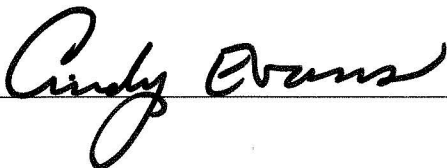
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the State's  
9 congressional delegation is requested to work with the  
10 appropriate federal agencies to examine and reconsider how the  
11 federal government spends its health care dollars; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this examination strive for a  
14 more accurate assessment of each state's economic situation by  
15 examining each state's tax base, burden of rising medical and  
16 hospital expenses, cost of living, and most current personal  
17 income data; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegation is requested to  
20 work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to  
21 consider adjusting the current 0.45 multiplier used to calculate  
22 the federal medical assistance percentage that is established in  
23 federal law, such that more aid to the State might be provided  
24 without the requirement of greater state contributions; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional  
28 delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the  
29 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
30 Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human  
31 Services, the Governor, the state Director of Health, and the  
32 state Director of Human Services.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
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FEB 12 2008

