
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 Hawaii'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 increasing the current 0.5650 multiplier used to
22 calculate the federal medical assistance percentage that is
23 established in federal law, such that more aid to the State
24 might be provided without the requirement of greater state
25 contributions; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional
29 Delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the
30 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
31 Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human
32 Services, the Governor, the state Director of Health, and the
33 state Director of Human Services.

