

---

---

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO COLLECT DATA AND  
REPORT HOW COUNSELING COVERAGE COULD BE PROVIDED TO ALL  
MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES WISHING TO QUIT SMOKING.

1           WHEREAS, smoking remains a major health issue for Hawaii's  
2 people, responsible each year for more than 1,200 deaths with an  
3 annual health care cost of \$336,000,000 with \$117,000,000  
4 covered by Hawaii's Medicaid program; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, the Department of Health reports that 17.5 percent  
7 of adults and nearly 14.7 percent of all high school students in  
8 Hawaii smoke cigarettes; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control reports that  
11 Hawaii taxpayers spend \$101,840,000 per year in health care  
12 costs for the nearly 74,000 women addicted to smoking in the  
13 state; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, although the smoking rate among pregnant women in  
16 Hawaii is relatively low at seven percent, this risky behavior  
17 still impacts the lives of 1,200 babies every year; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, there are significantly higher costs related to  
20 increased neonatal care for infants affected by smoking; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, though the monetary costs are extremely high, the  
23 quality of life costs are even higher; and  
24

25           WHEREAS, while the pain and suffering of an unborn child or  
26 an infant due to exposure to tobacco smoke is difficult to  
27 assess, there is no disputing its unacceptability; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, 38 states have Medicaid programs that cover some  
30 tobacco-dependence treatment such as counseling or medication  
31 for all Medicaid recipients, and only seven states cover all



1 recommended medication and at least one from of counseling as  
2 recommended by the 2000 Public Health Service Guidelines; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, to achieve the 2010 national health objective  
5 states, including Hawaii, should offer or increase Medicaid  
6 coverage for treatment of tobacco dependences; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services (DHS), is  
9 responsible for administering Hawaii's Medicaid program; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, pending the passage of appropriate legislation,  
12 DHS should consider the provision of smoking-cessation  
13 counseling services to all Medicaid beneficiaries especially  
14 women of childbearing age who have become addicted to smoking;  
15 now, therefore,

16  
17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
19 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that DHS is requested to  
20 collect data and report how counseling coverage could be  
21 provided to all Medicaid beneficiaries wishing to quit smoking;  
22 and

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a  
25 report no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the  
26 Regular Session of 2009, including their findings and any  
27 proposed legislation; and

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
31 Director of Human Services.

32  
33  
34 OFFERED BY:

*John M. Phipps*  
*Tom B. Brown*  
*Karen Kawana*  
*Muhial Y. Maymouy*  
*Roy D. Kawahana*

