

MAR 13 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL  
IMPACTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE  
FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM  
DISORDERS.

1           WHEREAS, "autism spectrum disorders" means any of the  
2 pervasive developmental disorders as defined by the most recent  
3 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental  
4 Disorders, including autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder,  
5 pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, Rett's  
6 disorder, and childhood disintegrative disorder; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders are characterized by  
9 varying degrees of impairment in communication skills, social  
10 interactions, and restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped  
11 patterns of behavior that affect an estimated 3.4 out of every  
12 one thousand children three to ten years of age and that cause  
13 major disruptions in families and unfulfilled lives for many  
14 children; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),  
17 requires that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates  
18 health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific  
19 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part  
20 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be  
21 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed  
22 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature  
23 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of  
24 the proposed mandated coverage"; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, section 23-51, HRS, further provides that the  
27 concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative  
28 bill that:  
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30           (1) Has been introduced in the Legislature; and  
31



- 1 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:
- 2
- 3 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
- 4 that would be covered;
- 5
- 6 (B) Extent of the coverage;
- 7
- 8 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
- 9
- 10 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
- 11
- 12 (E) Standards of care;
- 13

14 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage  
 15 shall not include mandated optionals"; and

16  
 17 WHEREAS, section 23-52, HRS, further specifies the minimum  
 18 information required for assessing the social and financial  
 19 impact of the proposed health coverage mandate in the Auditor's  
 20 report; and

21  
 22 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 2532 (2008) mandates coverage of the  
 23 diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for  
 24 individuals under twenty-one years of age for all policies and  
 25 contracts, hospital and medical service plan contracts, medical  
 26 service corporation contracts, and health maintenance  
 27 organization plans and contracts issued after December 31, 2008;  
 28 and

29  
 30 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health  
 31 insurance coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of autism  
 32 spectrum disorders, as provided in S.B. No. 2532 (2008), will  
 33 substantially reduce illness and assist in the maintenance of  
 34 good health for the people of this State; now, therefore,

35  
 36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
 37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
 38 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
 39 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to  
 40 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social  
 41 and financial impacts of mandating coverage of the diagnosis and  
 42 treatment of autism spectrum disorders for all policies and  
 43 contracts, hospital and medical service plan contracts, medical  
 44 service corporation contracts, and health maintenance



1 organization plans and contracts issued after December 31, 2008,  
2 as provided in S.B. No. 2532 (2008); and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
5 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,  
6 including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than  
7 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
8 2009; and

9  
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of  
12 Health, and the Insurance Commissioner, who in turn is requested  
13 to transmit copies to each insurer in the State that issues  
14 health insurance policies.

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OFFERED BY:

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