
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
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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
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26 WHEREAS, section 23-51, HRS, further provides that the
27 concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative
28 bill that:
29

30 (1) Has been introduced in the Legislature; and
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- 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
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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, S.D. 1 (2008) mandates coverage of
 23 the 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, S.D. 1 (2008),
 33 will substantially reduce illness and assist in the maintenance
 34 of good health for the people of this State; now, therefore,
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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, S.D. 1 (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

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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.

