

FEB 28 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC  
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR THE QUEST-ACE HEALTH INSURANCE  
PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, improving Hawaii's healthcare safety net is a  
2 sensible goal that results in a healthier community; and

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4           WHEREAS, a three-year survey conducted between 2003-2005  
5 indicated that approximately 13 percent of adults age 19-64 were  
6 uninsured, or more than 99,000 people; and

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8           WHEREAS, although Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act requires  
9 employers to provide insurance coverage to employees who work at  
10 least 20 hours per week, there is a gap group of uninsured  
11 adults; and

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13           WHEREAS, this gap group includes the working poor who have  
14 part-time jobs and don't earn enough to pay for private  
15 insurance programs, but their incomes make them ineligible to  
16 participate in existing state programs; and

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18           WHEREAS, QUEST-ACE (Adult Coverage Expansion) is a health  
19 insurance program designed to cover up to 20,000 gap group  
20 adults; and

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22           WHEREAS, QUEST-ACE is open to adults with children, the  
23 blind and disabled, and some small business owners; and

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25           WHEREAS, QUEST-ACE includes a variety of benefits and  
26 services, including outpatient visits, inpatient hospital days,  
27 mental health visits, and limited prescription drug and dental  
28 benefits; and



1 WHEREAS, language and interpreter services are also  
2 included, a much-needed benefit for those with limited English-  
3 speaking skills; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the burden on overcrowded emergency rooms will be  
6 eased since insurance coverage will encourage early,  
7 preventative health care; and  
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9 WHEREAS, coverage provided under QUEST-ACE will likely  
10 result in savings to hospitals that lose an estimated  
11 \$150,000,000 per year providing care to the uninsured or  
12 underinsured; and  
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14 WHEREAS, an innovative program such as QUEST-ACE needs to  
15 be adequately publicized to the approximately 99,000 uninsured  
16 adults in Hawaii; now, therefore,  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
20 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature urges  
21 the Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct a public  
22 awareness campaign for the QUEST-ACE health insurance program;  
23 and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in its public awareness campaign,  
26 DHS is requested to create literature that could be included in  
27 utility statements such as gas, water, and electric bills, and  
28 posters or flyers that could be posted at all University of  
29 Hawaii system campuses, community health centers, welfare  
30 service centers, and nonprofit human service organizations; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
34 Services.  
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OFFERED BY: *Frankie Chun Adelland*

