

FEB 28 2008

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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19 WHEREAS, there are significantly higher costs related to
20 increased neonatal care for infants affected by smoking; and
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22 WHEREAS, though the monetary costs are extremely high, the
23 quality of life costs are even higher; and
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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
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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
32 recommended medication and at least one from of counseling as
33 recommended by the 2000 Public Health Service Guidelines; and
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1 WHEREAS, to achieve the 2010 national health objective
2 states, including Hawaii, should offer or increase Medicaid
3 coverage for treatment of tobacco dependences; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services (DHS), is
6 responsible for administering Hawaii's Medicaid program; and
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8 WHEREAS, pending the passage of appropriate legislation,
9 DHS should consider the provision of smoking-cessation
10 counseling services to all Medicaid beneficiaries especially
11 women of childbearing age who have become addicted to smoking;
12 now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
16 that DHS is requested to collect data and report how counseling
17 coverage could be provided to all Medicaid beneficiaries wishing
18 to quit smoking; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a
21 report no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
22 Regular Session of 2009, including their findings and any
23 proposed legislation; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Human
27 Services.
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OFFERED BY: *Theranne Chun A. Akelani*

