

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE
FOR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND OBESITY PREVENTION FOR CHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, childhood obesity constitutes one of Hawaii's most
2 pressing health problems today; and

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4 WHEREAS, obesity in children has been associated with the
5 growing incidence of type II diabetes, poor self-esteem, and
6 poor health as adults; and

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8 WHEREAS, pediatricians are usually the first line of
9 intervention regarding a child's health; and

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11 WHEREAS, anticipatory guidance from pediatricians and
12 family physicians offers an effective means to evaluate, treat,
13 and prevent obesity; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii pediatric weight management toolkit was
16 designed to be used by physicians in response to the childhood
17 obesity epidemic here in Hawaii; and

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19 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that health insurance
20 providers cover weight management and obesity prevention for all
21 children in this State; and

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23 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
24 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
25 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
26 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
27 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
28 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
29 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
30 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
31 the proposed mandated coverage"; and
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S.C.R. NO. 106

1 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
2 provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a
3 specific legislative bill that:

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- 5 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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 - 7 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:
 - 8
 - 9 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
 - 10 that would be covered;
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 - 12 (B) Extent of the coverage;
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 - 14 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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 - 16 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
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 - 18 (E) Standards of care.
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20 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
21 shall not include mandated optionals"; and

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23 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
24 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
25 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
26 mandate in the Auditor's report; and

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28 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 794 (2009) mandates coverage for weight
29 management and obesity prevention for children in all individual
30 and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that coverage for weight
34 management and obesity prevention for children, as provided in
35 S.B. No. 794 (2009), will substantially reduce illness and
36 assist in the maintenance of good health for the people of this
37 State; now, therefore;

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
42 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to
43 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social
44 and financial impacts of mandating coverage for weight



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1 management and obesity prevention for children in all individual
2 and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies, as
3 provided in S.B. No. 794 (2009); and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
6 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
7 including any necessary implementing legislation, not later than
8 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
9 2010; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and to the
13 Insurance Commissioner, who, in turn, is requested to transmit
14 copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance
15 policies.
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OFFERED BY: Erzanne Chun Oakland
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