

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
LACTATION CONSULTANT SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides infants with nutrients for
2 healthy growth, delivers antibodies to develop an infant's
3 immune system; reduces the risk of jaundice in infants, and
4 decreases the risk of allergies; and

5
6 WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides physical and psychological
7 benefits, including increased bonding between the mother and
8 infant when breastfeeding techniques are properly learned; and

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10 WHEREAS, in addition to the health benefits for the mother
11 and infant, breastfeeding offers environmental benefits in that
12 it produces less non-recyclable waste than bottle feeding and
13 leaves no carbon footprint; and

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15 WHEREAS, a lactation consultant is a health care
16 professional, often a nurse, whose most important role is
17 offering breastfeeding assistance and education, assisting
18 mothers to breastfeed comfortably and effectively; and

19
20 WHEREAS, a visit with a lactation consultant often provides
21 a mother with the support, education, and confidence to
22 breastfeed successfully and results in healthier infants and
23 mothers and reduces the likelihood of illnesses, allergies, and
24 costly medical treatments; and

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26 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
27 that:
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1 "Before any legislative measure that mandates health
 2 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
 3 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as
 4 part of individual or group health insurance policies, can
 5 be considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
 6 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the
 7 legislature a report that assesses both the social and
 8 financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage"; and
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10 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, sets forth
 11 the information to be included in the Auditor's report; now,
 12 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 2009, the
 16 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
 17 requested to conduct an impact assessment report pursuant to
 18 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social
 19 and financial impact of mandating health insurance coverage for
 20 lactation consultant services, as further described by Senate,
 21 Bill No. ____ and House Bill No. ____; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
 24 submit a report of findings and recommendations to the
 25 Legislature, which shall include any necessary legislation, at
 26 least twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 27 of 2010; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the
 31 Insurance Commissioner, who, in turn, is requested to transmit
 32 copies to each organization that issues health insurance
 33 policies in the State.
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