

FEB 02 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE PARITY OF
COVERAGE FOR ORAL AND INTRAVENOUS CHEMOTHERAPY.

1 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that more
2 than 565,650 people in the United States, including over 2,260
3 people in Hawaii, died of some form of cancer in 2008; and
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5 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society also reports that
6 approximately 1,437,180 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in
7 2008, including approximately 6,310 new cases in Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, advances in cancer treatment have led to the
10 availability of oral chemotherapy drugs to treat certain types
11 of cancers including breast cancer, colon and colorectal cancer,
12 leukemia, lymphoma, lung cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, prostate
13 cancer, ovarian cancer, and brain tumor; and
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15 WHEREAS, oral chemotherapy, which allows a patient to take
16 cancer-fighting drugs by mouth in the form of a pill, capsule,
17 or liquid, may be more effective at fighting certain types of
18 cancer and may cause fewer negative side effects in some
19 patients than traditional intravenous chemotherapy; and
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21 WHEREAS, oral chemotherapy drugs do not require
22 administration in a clinical setting and, therefore, allow a
23 patient to maintain a greater degree of normalcy and
24 independence during treatment than traditional intravenous
25 chemotherapy; and
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27 WHEREAS, oral chemotherapy may be more cost-efficient for
28 many patients than traditional intravenous chemotherapy since
29 oral chemotherapy does not require each dose to be administered
30 by medical personnel in a clinical setting; and
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1 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that health insurance
2 providers cover all forms of necessary and effective treatment
3 for cancer patients in this State; and
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5 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
6 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
7 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
8 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
9 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
10 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
11 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
12 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
13 the proposed mandated coverage"; and
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15 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
16 provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a
17 specific legislative bill that:

- 18 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
- 19 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:
 - 20 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
 - 21 that would be covered;
 - 22 (B) Extent of the coverage;
 - 23 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
 - 24 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
 - 25 (E) Standards of care.

26 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
27 shall not include mandated optionals"; and
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29 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
30 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
31 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
32 mandate in the Auditor's report; and
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34 WHEREAS, S.B. No. (2009) mandates parity of coverage for
35 oral and intravenous chemotherapy for all individual and group
36 accident and health or sickness insurance policies that include
37 coverage for the treatment of cancer, effective July 1, 2009;
38 and
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40 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that parity of coverage
41 for oral and intravenous chemotherapy, as provided in S.B. No.
42 (2009), will substantially reduce illness and assist in the
43 maintenance of good health for the people of this State; now,
44 therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and financial impacts of mandating parity of coverage for oral and intravenous chemotherapy for all individual and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies that include coverage or benefits for the treatment of cancer, effective as of July 1, 2009 as provided in S.B. No. (2009); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature, including any necessary implementing legislation, not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and to the Insurance Commissioner, who, in turn, is requested to transmit copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance policies.

OFFERED BY: Josh M...

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