
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
COLONOSCOPY COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING.

1 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is a collective term that refers
2 to both cancer of the colon and cancer of the rectum; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and
5 Prevention, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of
6 cancer deaths in the United States after lung cancer; and
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8 WHEREAS, excluding skin cancers, the American Cancer Society
9 counts colorectal cancer as the third most commonly occurring
10 cancer in the country, affecting both men and women; and
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12 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates that there
13 were approximately 108,070 new colorectal cancer diagnoses made
14 in 2008, which the Society forecasts will result in almost fifty
15 thousand deaths, or slightly less than one-half of those
16 afflicted; and
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18 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, seven hundred residents will be
19 diagnosed with colorectal cancer and over two hundred will die;
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22 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is one of the most treatable
23 forms of cancer when diagnosed early through available screening
24 techniques, including the following techniques listed in the
25 American Cancer Society's 2008, revised colorectal guideline:
26 colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, double contrast barium
27 enema, CT colonoscopy (virtual colonoscopy), fecal occult blood
28 test, fecal immunochemical test, and stool DNA test; and
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30 WHEREAS, recent studies by The Lewin Group and Milliman USA
31 show that the cost of cancer prevention and detection is 55 cents

1 per person per month, which is very low compared to the cost of
2 treatment; and

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4 WHEREAS, colonoscopy is considered a safe and highly
5 effective diagnostic technique that studies have found to be more
6 accurate and less invasive than other forms of screening and that
7 was reported by Duke University Medical Center, in 2004, to be
8 the "most reliable way to find colon cancer and the growths that
9 could become colon cancer"; and

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11 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 823 has been introduced during the
12 Regular Session of 2009 that proposes to mandate health insurance
13 screening coverage for colorectal cancer utilizing colonoscopy,
14 as well as screening tests and procedures recommended in the
15 American Cancer Society's 2008, revised colorectal cancer
16 guideline; and

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18 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
19 that:

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21 "Before any legislative measure that mandates health
22 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
23 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as
24 part of individual or group health insurance policies, can
25 be considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
26 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the
27 legislature a report that assesses both the social and
28 financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage. . .";
29 and

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31 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, outlines
32 the specific topics to be addressed in the Auditor's report
33 required under section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes; now,
34 therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
38 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
39 requested to conduct an impact assessment report pursuant to
40 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social
41 and financial effects of mandating coverage for colorectal cancer
42 screening by colonoscopy and screening tests and procedures as
43 further described by House Bill No. 823 (Regular Session of
44 2009); and

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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
3 submit a report on the Auditor's findings and recommendations to
4 the Legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the Regular Session of 2010; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the
9 Insurance Commissioner who, in turn, is requested to transmit
10 copies to each organization that issues health insurance
11 policies in the State that may be affected by the Concurrent
12 Resolution.