
SENATE RESOLUTION

ENSURING THAT ANY LEGISLATIVE EFFORT TO REPAIR THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN HAWAII SHOULD INCORPORATE SUSTAINABLE WELLNESS PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRONIC DISEASE.

1 WHEREAS, increases in costs related to providing healthcare
2 for an aging population and the increasing number of people with
3 chronic disease create a crisis for the healthcare system in
4 Hawaii; and

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6 WHEREAS, over seventy-two thousand individuals in Hawaii
7 have been diagnosed with diabetes and more than twenty-five
8 thousand remain undiagnosed; and

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10 WHEREAS, the leading cause of death in Hawaii is
11 cardiovascular disease, which is responsible for more than
12 thirty-six per cent of all deaths in the State; and

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14 WHEREAS, overweight and obese individuals are at increased
15 risk for developing many diseases, including cardiovascular
16 disease and diabetes; and

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18 WHEREAS, low-income families face an increased risk of
19 developing chronic disease and do not have the resources
20 necessary to avoid developing serious health problems related to
21 such chronic disease; and

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23 WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that suggests
24 wellness programs that promote lifestyle changes can diminish
25 the incidence and severity of chronic disease, provide a
26 substantial return on investment, and reduce reliance on the
27 conventional medical care system; and

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29 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a responsibility to
30 reengineer its healthcare system, which must be revised, to
31 allow for the provision of adequate healthcare for future
32 generations; now, therefore,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
3 that the Senate should ensure that any revisions of the
4 healthcare system in Hawaii incorporate sustainable wellness
5 programs that address the underlying causal factors associated
6 with chronic disease; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public have access to
9 strategies for improving individual health through lifestyle
10 change, including strategies relating to diet, exercise, smoking
11 cessation, and stress reduction; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health.
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