
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 TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, childhood obesity is a growing concern in the
2 state with 26.9 percent of children ages 10-17 being overweight
3 or obese; and

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

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9 WHEREAS, a 2004 report estimated that in Hawaii the medical
10 costs attributable to adult obesity totaled \$290,000,000, of
11 which \$30,000,000 was expended by Medicare, \$90,000,000 by
12 Medicaid, and \$170,000,000 from other sources; and

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14 WHEREAS, successful treatment of overweight and obese
15 children may prevent the burden of medical and social problems
16 they face as adults and the associated medical costs to the
17 health care system; and

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19 WHEREAS, pediatricians are usually the first line of
20 intervention regarding an individual child's health; and

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22 WHEREAS, pediatricians supplement and enhance the work of
23 public health initiatives in raising awareness of the medical
24 and social problems related to being overweight and obese; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Pediatric Weight Management Toolkit,
27 designed to help health professionals teach children and parents
28 healthy lifestyle habits, was designed to be used by physicians
29 in response to the growing problem of childhood obesity here in
30 Hawaii; and



1 WHEREAS, there are significant medical, social, and
2 economic reasons to require health insurance providers to cover
3 treatment of overweight and obese children in this State; and
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5 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
6 requires that:
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8 "[b]efore any legislative measure that
9 mandates health insurance coverage for
10 specific health services, specific diseases,
11 or certain providers of health care services
12 as part of individual or group health
13 insurance policies, can be considered, there
14 shall be concurrent resolutions passed
15 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit
16 to the legislature a report that assesses
17 both the social and financial effects of the
18 proposed mandated coverage";

19 and
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21 WHEREAS, section 23-51, HRS, further provides that "[t]he
22 concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative
23 bill that:
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- 25 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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27 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:
28
29 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
30 that would be covered;
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32 (B) Extent of coverage;
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34 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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36 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
37
38 (E) Standards of care;
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40 for purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
41 shall not include mandated optionals"; and
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43 WHEREAS, section 23-52, HRS, further specifies the minimum
44 information required for assessing the social and financial



1 impact of the proposed health coverage mandate in the Auditor's
2 report; and

3
4 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 794 (2009) mandates coverage for weight
5 management and obesity prevention for children in all individual
6 and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies;
7 and

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

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
18 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to
19 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social
20 and financial impacts of mandating coverage for weight
21 management and obesity prevention for children in all individual
22 and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies, as
23 provided in S.B. No. 794 (2009); and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
26 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
27 including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than
28 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
29 2011; and

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

