

MAR 05 2010

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL HEALTH BOARD TO ENSURE  
QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

1           WHEREAS, every American deserves access to affordable  
2 quality health care; and

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4           WHEREAS, the cost of health insurance is now rising at a  
5 rate that is making the procurement of such insurance  
6 unaffordable; and

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8           WHEREAS, competition among private health insurance plans  
9 has not made health care more affordable or more accessible to  
10 Americans but, in fact, has had the opposite effect; and

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12           WHEREAS, pressure to hold down health care costs and  
13 maximize profits has led to strong financial incentives for  
14 private health plans to use underwriting strategies to avoid or  
15 limit covering the sick; and

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17           WHEREAS, for physicians and other health care providers,  
18 such as hospitals, competition among private health insurance  
19 plans has resulted in reduced fees, increased managed care  
20 paperwork and bureaucratic requirements, increased  
21 administrative costs, and increased obstacles to the payment of  
22 claims; and

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24           WHEREAS, the private practice of medicine is now being  
25 threatened by the increasing power of health plans to set fees  
26 and force physicians to accept onerous and unfunded managed care  
27 policies; and

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29           WHEREAS, comparisons with other countries' health care  
30 systems and economic analyses have repeatedly shown that a  
31 single-payer health care financing system with universal  
32 coverage of all residents would cost less and provide better



1 overall care than any proposal involving competing private  
2 health insurance plans; and

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4 WHEREAS, if all Americans were covered by a single-payer  
5 health plan it would eliminate pre-existing condition  
6 exclusions, cost-shifting, disputes over who is responsible for  
7 paying for care, and the ties between employment and healthcare  
8 coverage; and

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10 WHEREAS, the removal of health care costs from litigation  
11 would result in large savings in medical malpractice, workers'  
12 compensation, and automobile insurance costs; now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that Congress is urged to  
17 enact legislation to establish a single-payer health care  
18 financing system for the United States; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Federal  
21 Executive Branch is urged to create a National Health Board,  
22 held accountable to act on behalf of the public good and  
23 insulated from special interest influences; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board shall have expertise  
26 in health economics and representation from the actual  
27 stakeholders in health care including physicians, hospitals, and  
28 other providers of health care and the public; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Health Board shall  
31 be granted authority over the establishment of a provider fee  
32 structure, allocation of government funding for health care  
33 education and training, medical research, public health  
34 programs, scope of practice issues, and quality improvement  
35 programs; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Health Board shall  
38 have substantial authority over the public financing of the  
39 single-payer health care system, including health care taxes, to  
40 ensure that the funding of the system continues to reflect the  
41 realistic costs of providing quality health care, to ensure that  
42 public health care funds are spent in a cost-effective manner,  
43 and to ensure maintenance of quality health care for the  
44 residents of the United States in perpetuity; and

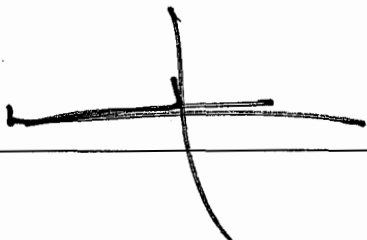


# S.C.R. NO. 154

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority leader of the U.S. Senate, and Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:

 (P/R)

