

MAR 03 2010

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 overweight or
3 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 was \$290 million, of which
11 \$30 million was expended by Medicare, \$90 million by Medicaid,
12 and \$170 million 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

7 *"[b]efore any legislative measure that*
8 *mandates health insurance coverage for*
9 *specific health services, specific diseases,*
10 *or certain providers of health care services*
11 *as part of individual or group health*
12 *insurance policies, can be considered, there*
13 *shall be concurrent resolutions passed*
14 *requesting the auditor to prepare and submit*
15 *to the legislature a report that assesses*
16 *both the social and financial effects of the*
17 *proposed mandated coverage";*

18 and

19
20 WHEREAS, section 23-51, HRS, further provides that "[t]he
21 concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative
22 bill that:

- 23
24 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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26 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:
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28 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
29 that would be covered;
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31 (B) Extent of coverage;
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33 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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35 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
36
37 (E) Standards of care;

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39 for purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
40 shall not include mandated optionals"; and



1 WHEREAS, section 23-52, HRS, further specifies the minimum
2 information required for assessing the social and financial
3 impact of the proposed health coverage mandate in the Auditor's
4 report; and

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

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

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
20 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to
21 sections 23-51 and 23-52, HRS, of the social and financial
22 impacts of mandating coverage for weight management and obesity
23 prevention for children in all individual and group accident and
24 health or sickness insurance policies, as provided in S.B. No.
25 794 (2009); and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
28 submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
29 including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than
30 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011;
31 and

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

38 *Hele Gathel Michelle Sidani*
39 *Carol Fukunaga*
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