

MAR 10 2010

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTS THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR TO REVIEW AND COMPARE THE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM, THE PREPAID HEALTH CARE ACT, AND THE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS OF THE EMPLOYER-UNION TRUST FUND.

1           WHEREAS, under the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act, many  
2 employees and their families are able to receive health care  
3 benefits by paying for a portion of the health care premium with  
4 the remainder being paid for by their employers; and

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6           WHEREAS, despite the broad coverage of the Hawaii Prepaid  
7 Health Care Act, there are still many employees who are not able  
8 or eligible to receive health care benefits; and

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10           WHEREAS, employees of the State of Hawaii and the counties  
11 are able to receive health care benefits for themselves and  
12 their families through health care plans offered by the  
13 Employer-Union Trust Fund (EUTF) by paying for a portion of the  
14 premium in a manner similar to the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care  
15 Act with the State and counties paying the remainder; and

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17           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and the counties, as the  
18 former employers of state and county retirees, provide health  
19 care plans through the EUTF by paying all or part of the health  
20 care premium for eligible retirees and their families; and

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22           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and the counties pay hundreds  
23 of millions of dollars in health care premiums for their  
24 employees and retirees through the EUTF without being able to  
25 leverage these funds to keep costs down; and

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27           WHEREAS, under the federal Medicaid program, states can  
28 receive a waiver under Section 1115, U.S.C.A. Title 42, to  
29 expand Medicaid coverage to families earning up to three hundred  
30 per cent of the federal poverty level; and

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1 WHEREAS, under the Medicaid program, states must contribute  
2 a percentage of the funds, known as the state match, to pay for  
3 the health care benefits provided; and  
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5 WHEREAS, some current public sector employees and many  
6 public sector retirees earn less than three hundred per cent of  
7 the federal poverty level and the moneys used by the state and  
8 counties to pay for health care through the EUTF could be  
9 leveraged and used as the state match to provide coverage under  
10 Medicaid for eligible public sector employees and retirees; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the health care benefits provided under the  
13 Medicaid Program are similar to the benefits available under the  
14 Prepaid Health Care Act and the health care programs of the  
15 EUTF; 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 Office of the  
20 Auditor is requested to review the health care benefits  
21 available under the Medicaid Program, the Prepaid Health Care  
22 Act, and the health care programs of the EUTF and report where  
23 the benefits provided are the same and where they differ, and  
24 whether the benefits under the Medicaid Program can be made  
25 similar to the benefits available under the Prepaid Health Care  
26 Act and the health care programs of the EUTF; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Auditor is  
29 requested to review the scope of the Medicaid Waiver Program or  
30 any program in the Medicaid Act which allows for expansion of  
31 coverage to determine the feasibility of:  
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- 33 (1) Covering private sector employees and their families  
34 earning less than three hundred per cent of the  
35 federal poverty level under the Medicaid Act  
36 regardless of whether the employee is currently  
37 covered under the Prepaid Health Care Act;  
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- 39 (2) Using the amount of the employer's payment for  
40 coverage under the Prepaid Health Care Act to  
41 reimburse the State for its portion of the state match  
42 in order to pay for coverage of private employees who  
43 are eligible for Medicaid because they earn less than  
44 three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level;



