

S.C.R. NO. 64

JAN 29 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND TO JOIN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES QUEST PROGRAM IN IMPLEMENTING
A HEALTH INSURANCE PUBLIC PURCHASING POOL.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Human Services first
2 received approval to implement the QUEST program in July 1993,
3 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services
4 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

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6 WHEREAS, the QUEST program is designed to provide quality
7 care, ensure universal access, encourage efficient utilization,
8 stabilize costs, and transform the way health care is provided
9 to its members; and

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11 WHEREAS, the objectives of Hawaii's 1993 QUEST proposal, as
12 documented to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services,
13 were to streamline health service delivery, contain drug costs,
14 control overutilization of health services, develop standard
15 health benefits packages, and develop health insurance public
16 purchasing pools; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the 1993 QUEST proposal called for the phased
19 implementation of various health benefit plans for populations
20 such as: 1) The low-income and needy, 2) the aged, disabled and
21 blind, 3) state employees, and 4) small business associations;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, the QUEST program implemented the first phase of
25 its 1993 proposal in August 1994 by providing capitated benefit
26 plans, which include medical, dental and behavioral health
27 benefits, to the State's needy and low-income beneficiaries; and

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29 WHEREAS, the QUEST program implemented another phase of its
30 1993 proposal in February 2009 by providing capitated benefit

1 plans to aged, disabled and blind beneficiaries through the
2 QUEST Expanded Access demonstration project; and
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4 WHEREAS, the next phase of QUEST calls for the
5 implementation of a public purchasing pool to procure capitated
6 benefit plans for other groups, including state employees; and
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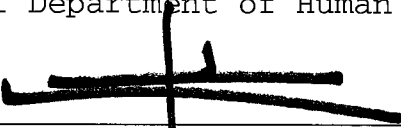
8 WHEREAS, the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund is
9 experiencing financial difficulties due to the current budget
10 deficit, and a public purchasing pool would promote cost
11 containment and ensure the continuation of affordable health
12 benefits to state employees; and
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14 WHEREAS, the QUEST program is projected to experience an
15 8.3 percent cost increase in fiscal year 2009-2010, and the
16 Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund is projected to
17 experience a 20 to 26 percent cost increase in fiscal year 2009-
18 2010; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, the Employer-Union Health
23 Benefits Trust Fund is urged to join the Department of Human
24 Services QUEST program in implementing a health insurance public
25 purchasing pool; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Employer-Union
29 Health Benefits Trust Fund, Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust
30 Fund Board of Directors, and the Hawaii Department of Human
31 Services.
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33 OFFERED BY:



BY REQUEST

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