

---

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HEALTH INSURERS IN HAWAII TO PROVIDE COVERAGE OR  
REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES RELATED TO PALLIATIVE CARE.

1           WHEREAS, palliative care is specialized health care for  
2 patients who are diagnosed with a serious and life-threatening  
3 illness that begins when the patient receives a diagnosis of the  
4 illness, regardless of prognosis; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the goals of palliative treatment are: relief  
7 from suffering, treatment of pain and other distressing  
8 symptoms, psychological and spiritual care, a support system to  
9 help the individual live as actively as possible, and a support  
10 system to sustain and rehabilitate the individual's family; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, palliative care involves the provision of patient  
13 and family-centered care that optimizes quality-of-life by  
14 anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, the number of older citizens is increasing, as  
17 well as the number of people living with chronic diseases, and  
18 palliative care is often the most desirable and effective care  
19 for many of these people; and

20  
21           WHEREAS, research increasingly supports the use of  
22 palliative care for severely ill patients, because it improves  
23 the quality of life, allows patients to choose their treatment  
24 options, and is a cost-effective or cost neutral alternative  
25 treatment; now, therefore,

26  
27           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
29 of 2011, that accident and health or sickness insurers in  
30 Hawaii, including mutual benefit societies and health  
31 maintenance organizations, are requested to provide coverage or  
32 reimbursement for palliative care services; and

33  
34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Hawaii Medical



# H.R. NO. 61

1 Board and the Insurance Commissioner, who in turn is requested  
 2 to transmit copies to each accident and health or sickness  
 3 insurer including mutual benefit societies and health  
 4 maintenance organizations in the State that issues health  
 5 insurance policies.

6  
 7  
 8

OFFERED BY: Maunly B. Lee

Gregory P. Roy  
John M. [unclear]  
John M. [unclear]  
[unclear]  
Linda [unclear]

FEB 22 2011

