
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ANALYZE THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED MANDATED COVERAGE OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR TOBACCO CESSATION AND ASSESS WHETHER ITS ENACTMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH STATE POLICY.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that insurance plans,
2 contracts, and policies in the State of Hawaii are not
3 required to include coverage for tobacco cessation methods;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that there is no
7 requirement that insurers cover comprehensive tobacco-
8 dependence treatment recommended by the United States Public
9 Health Service for beneficiaries in the State of Hawaii; and

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11 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and
12 Human Services indicates that counseling and pharmacotherapy
13 increase the chances of successfully quitting smoking,
14 especially when compared to unassisted attempts, and that
15 about 95 percent of people who try to stop smoking without
16 pharmacological aid will relapse or continue to smoke within
17 one year of an attempt to stop using tobacco; and

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19 WHEREAS, more than half of current smokers in Hawaii
20 tried quitting smoking in 2009 and more than 87 percent of
21 adult smokers plan to quit smoking according to the
22 Department of Health; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids indicates
25 that annual health care costs of \$336,000,000 in Hawaii are
26 directly caused by smoking of which \$117,000,000 is paid for
27 by the State Medicaid program; and

28
29 WHEREAS, an actuarial study conducted by Milliman, Inc.
30 found that each employee or dependent who quits smoking



1 reduces annual medical and life insurance costs by at least
2 \$210 almost immediately; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State of Massachusetts saw significant
5 health improvements after two years of providing United
6 States Food and Drug Administration-approved
7 pharmacotherapies and counseling to Medicaid beneficiaries,
8 including 33,000 less smokers and a reduction in the number
9 of hospitalizations for heart attack, emergency room visits
10 for asthma, and claims for maternal birth complications; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature also finds that because of the
13 numerous health risks associated with smoking and tobacco
14 use, including lung disease, heart disease, cancers, and
15 other health problems, there is a definite and tangible
16 health benefit that will result from having less tobacco
17 users in Hawaii; and
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19 WHEREAS, it is in the State's interest to assist tobacco
20 users in addressing their tobacco dependence by ensuring that
21 tobacco cessation and tobacco dependence treatment services
22 are available to as many people as possible, including
23 beneficiaries of health insurance; and
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25 WHEREAS, such a tangible health benefit translates to
26 financial benefits in prevented deaths, surgeries avoided,
27 and other financial savings due to costly health procedures
28 averted by keeping the population in good health; and
29

30 WHEREAS, mandated coverage for tobacco cessation would
31 enable the prevention of a myriad of health problems related
32 to tobacco use; and
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34 WHEREAS, mandatory coverage for tobacco cessation should
35 also require individual and group hospital and medical
36 service contracts that provide health care coverage to
37 provide coverage that requires no co-payment for tobacco
38 cessation claims by using methods such as the following:
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40 (1) Telephone, individual and group counseling, and
41 intervention sessions; and



1 (2) Prescription coverage for all nicotine replacement
2 products and tobacco cessation medications approved
3 by the United States Food and Drug Administration
4 and as recommended by the United States Public
5 Health Service Guideline, Treating Tobacco Use and
6 Dependence;

7
8 and

9
10 WHEREAS, mandatory coverage for tobacco cessation should
11 not have barriers that impede obtaining service; thus, there
12 should be no requirement for prior authorization, no annual
13 or lifetime limits on cessation attempts or costs, no limits
14 on treatment duration, no requirements that medication and
15 counseling be used together, and no requirements that less
16 costly medications be used before other medications will be
17 covered; and

18
19 WHEREAS, health plans in Hawaii should be required to
20 promote the provision of such tobacco cessation benefits to
21 their members; and

22
23 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
24 requires that:

25
26 "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates
27 health insurance coverage for specific health
28 services, specific diseases, or certain providers of
29 health care services as part of individual or group
30 health insurance policies, can be considered, there
31 shall be concurrent resolutions passed requesting the
32 auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a
33 report that assesses both the social and financial
34 effects of the proposed mandated coverage";

35
36 and

37
38 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
39 provides that:

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1 "[t]he concurrent resolution shall designate a
2 specific legislative bill that:

- 3 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
4 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:
5 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
6 that would be covered;
7 (B) Extent of the coverage;
8 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
9 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
10 (E) Standards of care.

11 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance
12 coverage shall not include mandated optional";

13
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
17 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
18 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
19 mandate in the Auditor's report; and

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21 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 1443 (2011) and S.B. No. 1452 (2011)
22 mandates that health insurers provide coverage for tobacco
23 cessation, effective July 1, 2011; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
27 Session of 2011, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an
28 impact assessment report, pursuant to sections 23-51 and 23-
29 52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and financial
30 impact of mandating health insurance coverage for tobacco
31 cessation; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
34 report findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
35 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular
36 Session of 2012; and

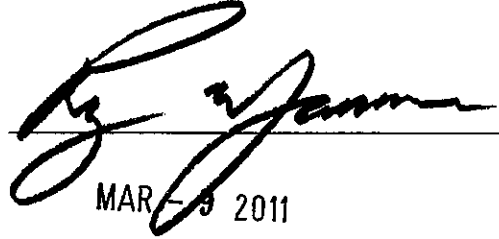
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the Insurance
40 Commissioner, who, in turn, is requested to transmit copies



1 to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance
2 policies.

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OFFERED BY:


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