

JAN 28 2011

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON  
LEGISLATION MANDATING COVERAGE OF PALLIATIVE CARE.

1 WHEREAS, palliative care is the medical specialty focused  
2 on the relief or management of pain, stress, and other  
3 debilitating symptoms of serious or chronic disease; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, palliative care is a patient-centered discipline  
6 that seeks to address physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual  
7 issues facing a person affected by chronic or serious disease  
8 through holistic treatment modalities; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, palliative care may be provided at any stage of a  
11 disease and in conjunction with other treatments, including  
12 curative treatment; and  
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14 WHEREAS, palliative care is an important component of  
15 treatment for chronic or serious illness or disorders that  
16 manifest complex and interconnected physical, mental, and  
17 emotional symptoms; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, palliative care can reduce the cost of treating  
20 chronic or serious disease by reducing the need for medical or  
21 pharmaceutical intervention to treat symptoms such as emotional  
22 distress or pain; and  
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24 WHEREAS, palliative care may incorporate services provided  
25 to the affected individual as well as to family or caregivers;  
26 and  
27

28 WHEREAS, palliative care is often provided by a team of  
29 providers that includes both traditional medical practitioners  
30 such as doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and psychologists  
31 and by a variety of other licensed practitioners such as  
32 naturopathic physicians, massage therapists, nutritionists,  
33 counselors, and social workers; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation identified  
3 several barriers to accessing palliative care including a  
4 financial structure that prioritizes curative care and  
5 disincentivizes palliative care; and  
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7 WHEREAS, mandatory insurance coverage of palliative care  
8 would accomplish the twin goals of eliminating financial  
9 barriers to access for individuals and incentivizing the  
10 inclusion of palliative care in mainstream health care,  
11 therefore eliminating structural barriers to its provision; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires  
14 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health  
15 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific  
16 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part  
17 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be  
18 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed  
19 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature  
20 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of  
21 the proposed mandated coverage"; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further  
24 provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a  
25 specific legislative bill that:  
26

- 27 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and  
28  
29 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:  
30  
31 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider  
32 that would be covered;  
33  
34 (B) Extent of the coverage;  
35  
36 (C) Target groups that would be covered;  
37  
38 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and  
39  
40 (E) Standards of care.  
41

42 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage  
43 shall not include mandated optionals"; and  
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1 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further  
2 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the  
3 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage  
4 mandate in the Auditor's report; and  
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6 WHEREAS, S.B. No. (2011) mandates that health insurers  
7 provide coverage for palliative care, effective July 1, 2011;  
8 now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
13 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to  
14 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social  
15 and financial impacts of mandating health insurance coverage for  
16 palliative care, effective as of July 1, 2011 as provided in  
17 S.B. No. (2011); and  
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
20 submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature,  
21 including any necessary implementing legislation, not later than  
22 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
23 2012; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and to the  
27 Insurance Commissioner, who, in turn, is requested to transmit  
28 copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance  
29 policies.  
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OFFERED BY: Enzaane Chun Aalilana  
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