

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
TO INCREASE THE FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE TO  
HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, Medicaid, the nation's public health insurance  
2 program for low-income individuals, serves nearly sixty million  
3 low-income Americans and is administered at the federal level by  
4 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, according to a publication of The Henry J. Kaiser  
7 Family Foundation dated March 2011, Medicaid covers:

- 8  
9           (1) More than one in three births;  
10  
11           (2) Eight million persons with disabilities;  
12  
13           (3) One in four poor, nonelderly adults; and  
14  
15           (4) Nearly nine million low-income Medicare beneficiaries;  
16           and

17  
18           WHEREAS, under this jointly-funded federal-state program,  
19 the federal government pays states for a specified percentage of  
20 program expenditures called the Federal Medical Assistance  
21 Percentage, which is the federal government's share of a state's  
22 expenditures for Medicaid services; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, the Social Security Act requires the United States  
25 Secretary of Health and Human Services to calculate and publish  
26 the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages each year; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, Federal Medical Assistance Percentages are used in  
29 determining the amount of federal matching funds for state



1 expenditures for assistance payments for certain social  
2 services, and state medical and medical insurance expenditures;  
3 and are adjusted for each state on a three-year cycle to account  
4 for fluctuations in the economy and are published annually in  
5 the Federal Register; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, states are reimbursed by the federal government  
8 for part of the cost of providing medical assistance services  
9 under Medicaid, with each state administering its own Medicaid  
10 program while the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid  
11 Services monitors the state-run programs and establishes  
12 requirements for service delivery, quality, funding, and  
13 eligibility standards; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursement rates are inadequate to  
16 cover the full costs of medical services provided by physicians  
17 and Medicaid pays physicians much less than private health  
18 insurers or Medicare for the same services; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, physicians most often cited inadequate  
21 reimbursement as the reason for not accepting Medicaid patients,  
22 together with delayed reimbursement and billing requirements;  
23 and

24  
25 WHEREAS, furthermore, low Medicaid reimbursements have led  
26 to fewer participating health care providers who service  
27 Medicaid patients and financial hardship to some providers; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the federal government should increase the Federal  
30 Medical Assistance Percentage to Hawaii to enable adequate  
31 reimbursement and funding of medical assistance to Medicaid  
32 recipients in the State; now, therefore,

33  
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
35 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
36 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the United States  
37 Department of Health and Human Services is urged to increase the  
38 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage to Hawaii; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
42 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of the



1 United States Social Security Administration, the Administrator  
2 of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the state  
3 Director of Human Services.

4  
5  
6

OFFERED BY:

Richard R. Ceborilla

[Signature]

[Signature]  
John M. [Signature]

[Signature]

MAR 13 2012

