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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING OBESITY PREVENTION-RELATED  
SERVICES AND COUNSELING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE  
CARE ACT.

1 WHEREAS, obesity is a major health and economic concern for  
2 Hawaii and the nation, causing higher medical costs and lower  
3 quality of life; and  
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5 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, adult obesity has more than doubled  
6 between 1995 and 2009, and childhood obesity increased by 38  
7 percent from 1999 to 2009; and  
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9 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, one in three children entering  
10 kindergarten is overweight or obese, and one in two adults is  
11 overweight or obese; and  
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13 WHEREAS, obesity-related medical expenditures in Hawaii  
14 were calculated to be over \$470,000,000 in 2009, and continue to  
15 rise; and  
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17 WHEREAS, obesity is a complex and multifaceted issue that  
18 requires the collaboration of stakeholders in government and  
19 non-profit, private and healthcare sectors to create systematic  
20 large-scale environmental changes; and  
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22 WHEREAS, stakeholders must be educated about the Patient  
23 Protection and Affordable Care Act, the ongoing efforts of the  
24 Hawaii Healthcare Project, and how these changes affect Hawaii's  
25 healthcare system; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the passage of the Patient Protection and  
28 Affordable Care Act provides an opportunity to assess gaps in  
29 healthcare providers' ability to prevent and treat obesity in  
30 Hawaii; and



1 WHEREAS, the payment structure for healthcare providers  
2 offering services and counseling related to obesity prevention  
3 and treatment must be improved; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, healthcare providers must be educated about  
6 reimbursable medical costs related to obesity prevention and  
7 treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
8 guidelines so that they may be compensated for the provision of  
9 these services; and

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11 WHEREAS, healthcare providers must be encouraged to provide  
12 services and counseling to overweight and obese patients; now,  
13 therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
17 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
18 Health is requested to establish the Obesity Prevention  
19 Healthcare Reimbursement Task Force, to:

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- 21 (1) Assess gaps in healthcare providers' ability to
- 22 prevent obesity and provide treatment for obesity-
- 23 related services and counseling;
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- 25 (2) Investigate providers' reimbursement options for the
- 26 provision of these services;
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- 28 (3) Educate providers about these reimbursement options;
- 29 and
- 30
- 31 (4) Encourage providers' utilization of reimbursement
- 32 options; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government, non-profit, and  
35 private healthcare organizations collaborate to increase the  
36 provision of obesity-related services and counseling by  
37 healthcare providers as mandated under the Patient Protection  
38 and Affordable Care Act guidelines; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health appoint  
41 up to 25 task force members with demonstrated interest in, and  
42 backgrounds beneficial to, assisting the function of the task  
43 force, including members having extensive knowledge, expertise,  
44 or experience in areas such as obesity prevention, healthcare,



1 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, healthcare  
2 coding, nutrition and physical activity, and related areas; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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- 6 (1) Research how other states are implementing obesity  
7 prevention reimbursement practices;
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  - 9 (2) Develop recommendations for increasing the provision  
10 of obesity-related services and counseling by  
11 healthcare providers through additional International  
12 Classification of Diseases, Ninth Edition and Tenth  
13 Edition codes, training and education, or other  
14 strategies; and
  - 15
  - 16 (3) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
17 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature  
18 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
19 the Regular Session of 2014; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force  
22 serve without compensation and receive no reimbursement for  
23 expenses; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
26 requested to assist the task force by providing a facilitator;  
27 and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force cease to exist  
30 on June 30, 2014; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
34 of Health, Director of Human Services, and Director of Commerce  
35 and Consumer Affairs.

