

JAN 27 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE
TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

1 WHEREAS, appropriate screening can determine whether an
2 individual as young as one year old is at risk for autism and
3 demonstrates that early treatment improves outcomes; and
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5 WHEREAS, Autism Speaks, an autism science and advocacy
6 organization, estimates that one out of every eighty-eight
7 children is diagnosed with some form of autism; and
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9 WHEREAS, Autism Speaks stresses the importance of
10 recognizing the early signs of autism and seeking early
11 intervention services; and
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13 WHEREAS, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care
14 Act has improved the availability of screening, diagnosis, and
15 treatment of autism; and
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17 WHEREAS, habilitative services would permit individuals
18 with autism to access ongoing services in speech, occupational,
19 and physical therapy when their physician prescribes it; and
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21 WHEREAS, behavioral health treatments such as applied
22 behavior analysis specific to the treatment of autism have not
23 been covered as habilitative services; and
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25 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
26 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
27 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
28 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
29 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
30 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
31 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature



1 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
2 the proposed mandated coverage"; and

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

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

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23 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
24 shall not include mandated optional"; and

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

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31 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 2578 (Regular Session of 2014) requires
32 individual or group accident and health or sickness insurance
33 policies, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance
34 organizations to provide coverage for treatment of autism
35 spectrum disorders; and

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37 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health
38 insurance coverage for treatment of autism spectrum disorders,
39 as provided in S.B. No. 2578 (Regular Session of 2014), will
40 substantially benefit individuals with autism; now, therefore,

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42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
43 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the
44 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is



1 requested to conduct an impact assessment pursuant to sections
2 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and
3 financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for
4 treatment of autism spectrum disorders pursuant to S.B. No. 2578
5 (Regular Session of 2014); and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
8 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
9 including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
11 2015; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Director
15 of Health.

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OFFERED BY: John L.

