

MAR 04 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON
LEGISLATION MANDATING CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is the goal of all
2 people in Hawaii to have access to health care in all its
3 facets, including affordable access to prescription drugs; and
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5 WHEREAS, the public relies heavily on health insurance
6 policies to provide access to adequate medical care; and
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8 WHEREAS, many health plans continue to increase enrollee
9 cost-sharing amounts, institute coinsurance, and create
10 specialty tiers, resulting in increased medication costs for
11 patients participating in those plans; and
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13 WHEREAS, many health plans and prescription drug plans now
14 require individuals to pay a coinsurance or percentage of the
15 cost of specialty tier prescription medications; and
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17 WHEREAS, specialty tier medications often include
18 medications for chronic diseases, including certain types of
19 cancer, hemophilia, multiple sclerosis, myositis, neuropathy,
20 arthritis, human immunodeficiency virus, and other diseases and
21 disorders; and
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23 WHEREAS, coinsurance, cost-sharing, and specialty tier
24 pricing often place significant and onerous financial burdens
25 upon insured individuals with chronic health care issues
26 requiring prescription medication, in many cases leading to
27 decreased adherence or failure to take medications as
28 prescribed, resulting in acute incidents and negative health
29 outcomes; and
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31 WHEREAS, S.B. No 2173 (Regular Session of 2014) seeks to
32 mandate that certain individual and group accident and health or



1 sickness policies, contracts, or plans issued or renewed in this
2 State after December 31, 2014, cover outpatient prescription
3 drugs and not require coinsurance as a basis for cost sharing
4 with enrollees for outpatient prescription drug benefits; and
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6 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 2173 (Regular Session of 2014) also seeks
7 to impose limitations on the amount of copayment insured
8 individuals must pay for prescription drugs; and
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10 WHEREAS, if an individual and group accident and health or
11 sickness policy, contract, or plan provides for a limit on the
12 annual out-of-pocket expenses for an insured individual, the
13 insured individual's out-of-pocket costs for covered outpatient
14 prescription drugs shall be included in that limit; and
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16 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
17 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
18 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
19 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
20 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
21 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
22 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
23 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
24 the proposed mandated coverage"; and
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26 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
27 provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a
28 specific legislative bill that:
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- 30 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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- 32 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the;
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 - 34 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
35 that would be covered;
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 - 37 (B) Extent of the coverage;
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 - 39 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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 - 41 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
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 - 43 (E) Standards of care.
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