
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO ASSESS THE IMPACT
OF USING MEDICAID FUNDS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE
TREATMENT FOR HOMELESSNESS.

1 WHEREAS, homelessness continues to be one of the State's
2 most significant and challenging social problems; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the 2016 Hawaii Statewide Homeless
5 Point-In-Time conducted in January 2016, there are 7,921
6 homeless individuals in the State, an overall increase of four
7 percent from 2015; and
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9 WHEREAS, homeless persons face a myriad of issues,
10 including general health issues, mental illness, substance
11 abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of affordable
12 housing; and
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14 WHEREAS, many people who experience homelessness have high
15 health care needs and costs; and
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17 WHEREAS, for many of these individuals with complex health
18 conditions, housing instability can be a significant barrier to
19 regular health care access, which results in excessive use of
20 expensive emergency department, inpatient treatment, and crisis
21 services; and
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23 WHEREAS, by recognizing the importance of housing stability
24 within the practice of health care for homeless individuals and
25 exploring creative and innovative solutions to address homeless
26 individuals' health care needs through housing stability from
27 traditional and non-traditional resources, the State may be able
28 to recover the costs that homeless individuals incur over their
29 lifetime; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
4 requested to conduct a study to assess the impact of using
5 Medicaid funds to provide coverage for treatment for
6 homelessness, including the costs to provide coverage for the
7 chronically homeless population in the State; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested, when
10 conducting the study, to take into consideration the coverage
11 for treatment for homelessness to include:

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- 13 (1) Behavioral health services, including mental health
14 and substance abuse services;
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- 16 (2) Case management;
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- 18 (3) Personal care and personal assistance services;
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- 20 (4) Home and community-based services; and
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- 22 (5) Housing services; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
25 submit findings and recommendations, including any proposed
26 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
27 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Director
31 of Human Services.

