

MAR 12 2021

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL  
EFFECTS OF MANDATING COVERAGE OF ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH  
SCREENING.

1 WHEREAS, according to the National Institute for Mental  
2 Health, in 2019, approximately 51,500,000, or eighteen percent,  
3 of adults in the United States experiences a mental illness or  
4 disorder; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, only forty-four percent of those individuals  
7 received mental health services for their mental illness; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, mental health issues are closely tied to physical  
10 health issues such as increased occurrences of chronic diseases  
11 such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma,  
12 epilepsy, and cancer; and

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14 WHEREAS, mental health issues cost the United States  
15 economy close to \$200,000,000,000 in lost wages in addition to  
16 \$100,000,000,000 in healthcare costs; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the  
19 United States, costing approximately \$51,000,000,000 each year;  
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 728, Regular Session of 2021, would  
23 require health insurers and similar entities that provide  
24 coverage for health care to provide coverage for annual mental  
25 health screenings; and

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27 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised  
28 Statutes, before any legislative measure that mandates health  
29 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific  
30 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part  
31 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be  
32 considered, a concurrent resolution shall be passed that  
33 designates a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to review  
34 and on which to prepare a report for submission to the  
35 Legislature that assesses both the social and financial effects



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1 of the proposed mandated coverage under that legislative bill;  
2 now, therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
6 that the Auditor is requested to conduct an assessment, pursuant  
7 to sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the  
8 social and financial effects of mandating health care coverage  
9 of annual mental health screenings, as provided in S.B. No. 728,  
10 Regular Session of 2021; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
13 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
14 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
15 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
16 2022; and

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Insurance  
20 Commissioner.

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22  
23 OFFERED BY: 

