
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF MANDATING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR 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 experience a mental illness or
4 disorder; and

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

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9 WHEREAS, mental health issues are closely tied to physical
10 health issues, such as increased occurrences of chronic diseases
11 including 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 and
16 \$100,000,000,000 in healthcare costs; and

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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



1 and on which to prepare a report for submission to the
2 Legislature that assesses both the social and financial effects
3 of the proposed mandated coverage under that legislative bill;
4 now, therefore,

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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
8 that the Auditor is requested to conduct an assessment, pursuant
9 to sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the
10 social and financial effects of mandating health insurance
11 coverage for annual mental health screenings, as provided in
12 S.B. No. 728, Regular Session of 2021; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
15 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
16 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
17 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
18 2022; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Insurance
22 Commissioner.

