

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A SOCIAL AND  
FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE  
COVERAGE FOR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT MEDICATION.

1 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health has reported  
2 that obesity and being overweight are now the second leading  
3 cause of death nationally, with an estimated three hundred  
4 thousand deaths a year attributed to the epidemic; and  
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6 WHEREAS, obesity increases the risk for chronic diseases  
7 and conditions, including high blood pressure, heart disease,  
8 certain cancers, arthritis, mental illness, lipid disorders,  
9 sleep apnea, and type 2 diabetes; and  
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11 WHEREAS, clinicians increasingly recognize that obesity is  
12 closely linked to genetics and environmental factors; and  
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14 WHEREAS, more than half of Medicare beneficiaries are  
15 treated for five or more chronic conditions per year; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the rate of obesity among Medicare beneficiaries  
18 doubled from 1987 to 2002 and nearly doubled again by 2016, with  
19 Medicare spending on individuals with obesity during that time  
20 rising proportionately to reach \$50 billion in 2014; and  
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22 WHEREAS, on average, a Medicare beneficiary with obesity  
23 costs \$2,018 more than a healthy-weight beneficiary; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 1020, introduced in the Regular  
26 Session of 2023, proposes to expand existing health insurance  
27 mandates to cover weight management medication for persons who  
28 are obese or overweight with one or more related comorbidities;  
29 now, therefore,  
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
2 Health is requested to conduct an impact assessment report of  
3 mandating health insurance coverage for weight management  
4 medication as proposed in Senate Bill No. 1020, introduced in  
5 the Regular Session of 2023; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
8 further requested to include in its assessment the impact of  
9 section 1311(d)(3) of the federal Patient Protection and  
10 Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on Senate Bill No. 1020, or similar  
11 legislation that includes but is not limited to the additional  
12 cost of any benefits beyond the essential health benefits of  
13 Hawaii's qualified health plans under the PPACA; and

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
16 also requested to determine how many qualified health plans are  
17 available in Hawaii, including plans offered by health  
18 maintenance organizations; the individual or group enrollment in  
19 these plans; and the actuarial cost of the defrayment to the  
20 State for the reimbursement of weight management medication; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
23 requested to submit a report on its findings and  
24 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
25 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
26 the Regular Session of 2024; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health  
30 and Insurance Commissioner, who is requested to transmit copies  
31 to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance  
32 policies.

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35 OFFERED BY:



