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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A HAWAII  
HEALTH CARE SUMMIT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC AND COMPREHENSIVE  
PLAN FOR HEALTH CARE IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranked number one among all of the states  
2 in health system performance, is a leader in reforming and  
3 improving its health system, and has one of the lowest uninsured  
4 rates in the nation according to the State Scorecard published  
5 in 2007 by The Commonwealth Fund; and  
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7 WHEREAS, life expectancy at birth in Hawaii is among the  
8 longest in the nation. In 2000, the most recent year for which  
9 state estimates are available, people born in Hawaii had a life  
10 expectancy of eighty years, three years longer than the United  
11 States average and the fifth longest average life expectancy in  
12 the world; and  
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14 WHEREAS, survey data collected by the federal government  
15 that compares private employer-sponsored health insurance  
16 premiums in Hawaii with those for the country as a whole  
17 reported that, as of 2003, Hawaii premiums for single coverage  
18 averaged thirteen per cent below the nation as a whole, and  
19 family coverage averaged nearly fifteen per cent below the  
20 nation. Predicted rates for 2006 indicate that Hawaii's rates  
21 will be twenty-one per cent below the national average for both  
22 single and family coverage; and  
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24 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the lowest Medicare cost per capita in  
25 the nation, spending a mere \$5,311 per Medicare enrollee  
26 compared to New York's high spending at \$9,564 per enrollee; and  
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28 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a robust network of federally qualified  
29 community health centers that provide quality health care to  
30 more than 100,000 uninsured; and  
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1 WHEREAS, however, Hawaii hospitals have lost \$150 million  
2 in the last year, primarily due to uncompensated care and low  
3 Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates that do not cover the  
4 costs of health care; and

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6 WHEREAS, reimbursements to hospitals and physicians from  
7 private insurers are under severe economic pressure to  
8 compensate for costs shifted from government health programs  
9 such as Medicare and Medicaid; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a shortage of beds in its long-term  
12 care facilities resulting in a diminished quality of life for  
13 the patient obliged to remain in an acute care hospital, an  
14 unavailability of acute care beds in the hospital that may be  
15 needed by someone else with an acute illness or injury, and an  
16 unnecessary stay in high cost acute care hospital beds for which  
17 the added cost is often absorbed by the acute care hospitals;  
18 and

19  
20 WHEREAS, changes in demographics, the delivery of health  
21 care services, low physician salaries, and the escalating costs  
22 of education have resulted in severe shortages of physicians,  
23 medical specialists, and other health care professionals,  
24 particularly in rural areas of the State; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, hospitals and physicians have reported low  
27 reimbursements from insurers; and

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29 WHEREAS, the costs of emergency and trauma care are  
30 escalating and fewer doctors are willing to serve on-call; and

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32 WHEREAS, natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina,  
33 illustrate the need for improvements for disaster preparedness,  
34 especially in health care; and

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36 WHEREAS, the complexity of health care reform is  
37 demonstrated by the impact that each part of the health care  
38 system has on other parts of the health care system; and

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40 WHEREAS, therefore, a strategic and comprehensive plan for  
41 health care in Hawaii is necessary to develop an effective  
42 solution for health care today and in the future; now,  
43 therefore,  
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State  
4 Legislature is requested to convene a Hawaii Health Care Summit  
5 to develop a strategic and comprehensive plan for health care in  
6 Hawaii; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Care Summit  
9 should be a collaborative effort that includes all stakeholders,  
10 including representatives from all of the medical and health  
11 care communities, health insurance providers, community health  
12 centers, hospitals, emergency and trauma care providers,  
13 long-term health care providers, Medicare, Medicaid, the John A.  
14 Burns School of Medicine, local business interests, and state  
15 agencies; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Care Summit  
18 should consist of twenty-five members as follows  
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- 20 (1) Six members appointed by the Senate President;
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- 22 (2) Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
23 Representatives;
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- 25 (3) Three members appointed by the Governor;
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- 27 (4) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Health;
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- 29 (5) The Chair of the House Committee on Health;
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- 31 (6) The Auditor, or the Auditor's designee;
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- 33 (7) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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- 35 (8) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's  
36 designee;
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- 38 (9) The Director of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns  
39 School of Medicine, or the Director's designee;
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- 41 (10) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care  
42 Association, or the Chief Executive Officer's  
43 designee;
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1 (11) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health  
2 Systems Corporation, or the Chief Executive Officer's  
3 designee; and  
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5 (12) Two representatives of different health insurance  
6 providers; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii Health  
9 Care Summit should select the chairperson of the Summit and  
10 should be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses,  
11 necessary for the performance of their duties; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Care Summit's  
14 strategic and comprehensive plan should include at a minimum:  
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16 (1) A plan for an improved emergency and trauma system;  
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18 (2) A plan for fair reimbursements from government and  
19 private payers to health care providers;  
20

21 (3) A plan for strengthening the financial performance of  
22 hospitals and long-term care facilities;  
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24 (4) A workforce development plan for physicians,  
25 particularly addressing rural communities and medical  
26 specialties, that includes the establishment of a  
27 process for the comprehensive assessment and  
28 projection of workforce needs;  
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30 (5) A workforce development plan for other health care  
31 professionals; and  
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33 (6) A health information technology plan that is  
34 consistent with federal efforts to accelerate  
35 electronic health records; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Hawaii Health Care Summit is  
38 requested to submit a report on its recommendations, including  
39 any implementing legislation, to the Legislature and the Auditor  
40 no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular  
41 Session of 2010; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after receipt of the Hawaii  
2 Health Care Summit's report, the Office of the Auditor is  
3 requested to:

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- 5 (1) Prepare the Hawaii Health Care Summit plan,  
6 incorporating all or a portion of the recommendations  
7 reported by the Hawaii Health Care Summit;
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  - 9 (2) Seek input from all state departments and solicit  
10 public views and concerns in preparation of the plan;
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  - 12 (3) Submit the Hawaii Health Care Summit plan to the  
13 Legislature no later than twenty days before the  
14 convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and
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  - 16 (4) Update the plan every ten years and report to the  
17 Legislature; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Care Summit  
20 shall cease to operate after the adjournment sine die of the  
21 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Concurrent  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the  
25 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair  
26 of the Senate Committee on Health, the Chair of the House  
27 Committee on Health, the Auditor, the Director of Health, the  
28 Director of Human Services, the Director of the University of  
29 Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Chief Executive  
30 Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association, and the Chief  
31 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.