
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE
FOR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND OBESITY PREVENTION FOR CHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, childhood obesity constitutes one of Hawaii's most
2 pressing health problems today; and

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4 WHEREAS, obesity in children has been associated with the
5 growing incidence of type II diabetes, poor self-esteem, and
6 poor health as adults; and

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8 WHEREAS, pediatricians are usually the first line of
9 intervention regarding a child's health; and

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11 WHEREAS, anticipatory guidance from pediatricians and
12 family physicians offers an effective means to evaluate, treat,
13 and prevent obesity; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii pediatric weight management toolkit was
16 designed to be used by physicians in response to the childhood
17 obesity epidemic here in Hawaii; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Cochrane Collaboration in a meta-analysis of
20 fifty-four research studies found that "combined lifestyle
21 interventions compared to standard care or self-help can produce
22 a significant and clinically meaningful reduction in overweight
23 children and adolescents"; and

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25 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the
26 Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services
27 Administration recommend using the body mass indicator for
28 screening with follow-up; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine in 2004 called for
31 "immediate action" with protocols "based on the best available
32 evidence opposed to waiting for the best possible evidence"; and

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2 WHEREAS, protocols similar to the Hawaii Pediatric Weight
3 Management Toolkit are available from the American Academy of
4 Pediatrics, the American Dietetic Association, and others; and
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6 WHEREAS, the William J. Clinton Foundation through the
7 Alliance for a Healthier Generation announced a partnership of
8 two large health insurance companies with dietitians and
9 pediatricians to provide coverage for preventive services for
10 overweight children; and
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12 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that health insurance
13 providers cover weight management and obesity prevention for all
14 children in this State; and
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16 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
17 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
18 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
19 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
20 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
21 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
22 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
23 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
24 the proposed mandated coverage"; and
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26 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
27 provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a
28 specific legislative bill that:
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- 30 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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32 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:
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34 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
35 that would be covered;
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37 (B) Extent of the coverage;
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39 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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41 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
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43 (E) Standards of care.
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1 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
2 shall not include mandated optionals"; and
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4 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
5 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
6 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
7 mandate in the Auditor's report; and
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9 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 794 (2009) mandates coverage for weight
10 management and obesity prevention for children in all individual
11 and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that coverage for weight
15 management and obesity prevention for children, as provided in
16 S.B. No. 794 (2009), will substantially reduce illness and
17 assist in the maintenance of good health for the people of this
18 State; now, therefore;
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
23 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to
24 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social
25 and financial impacts of mandating coverage for weight
26 management and obesity prevention for children in all individual
27 and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies, as
28 provided in S.B. No. 794 (2009); and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
31 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
32 including any necessary implementing legislation, not later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
34 2010; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and to the
38 Insurance Commissioner, who, in turn, is requested to transmit
39 copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance
40 policies.