
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, according to the State Scorecard published in 2007
2 by The Commonwealth Fund, Hawaii ranked number one among the
3 states in health system performance, is a leader in reforming
4 and improving its health system, and has one of the lowest
5 uninsured rates in the nation; 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, a person born in Hawaii had a
10 life expectancy of eighty years, three years longer than the
11 national average and the fifth longest average life expectancy
12 in the world; and
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14 WHEREAS, survey data collected by the federal government
15 that compare private employer-sponsored health insurance
16 premiums in Hawaii with those for the country as a whole
17 reported that, as of 2003, Hawaii's premium for single coverage
18 averaged thirteen per cent below the average premium charged
19 across the nation as a whole, and family coverage averaged
20 nearly fifteen per cent below the national average. Predicted
21 rates for 2006 indicate that Hawaii's rates will be twenty-one
22 per cent below the national average for both single and family
23 coverage; and
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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the lowest Medicare cost per capita in
26 the nation, spending a mere \$5,311 per Medicare enrollee
27 compared to New York's high expenditure of \$9,564 per enrollee;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a robust network of federally qualified
31 community health centers that provides quality health care to
32 more than one hundred thousand uninsured persons; and

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2 WHEREAS, however, Hawaii hospitals have lost \$150 million
3 in the last year, primarily due to uncompensated care and low
4 Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates that do not cover the
5 costs of health care; and

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7 WHEREAS, hospitals and physicians have reported low
8 reimbursements from insurers; and

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10 WHEREAS, private insurers are under severe pressure to
11 compensate hospitals and physicians through reimbursements to
12 cover costs shifted from government health programs such as
13 Medicare and Medicaid; and

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

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23 WHEREAS, changes in demographics, the delivery of health
24 care services, low physician salaries, and the escalating costs
25 of education have resulted in severe shortages of physicians,
26 medical specialists, and other health care professionals,
27 particularly in rural areas of the State; 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 improving 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 medical and health care
11 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-six 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 Standing Committee on Health;
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- 29 (5) The Chair of the House Standing 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 Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
39 School of Medicine, or the Dean'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 Healthcare
2 Association of Hawaii, or the Chief Executive
3 Officer's designee;
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- 5 (12) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health
6 Systems Corporation, or the Chief Executive Officer's
7 designee; and
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- 9 (13) Two representatives of different health insurance
10 providers offering coverage in Hawaii; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii Health
13 Care Summit should select the chairperson of the Summit and
14 should be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses,
15 necessary for the performance of their duties; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Care Summit's
18 strategic and comprehensive plan is requested to include at a
19 minimum:
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- 21 (1) A plan for an improved emergency and trauma system;
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- 23 (2) A plan for fair reimbursements from government and
24 private payers to health care providers;
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- 26 (3) A plan for strengthening the financial performance of
27 hospitals and long-term care facilities;
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- 29 (4) A workforce development plan for physicians,
30 particularly addressing rural communities and medical
31 specialties, that includes the establishment of a
32 process for the comprehensive assessment and
33 projection of workforce needs;
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- 35 (5) A workforce development plan for other health care
36 professionals; and
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- 38 (6) A health information technology plan that is
39 consistent with federal efforts to accelerate the use
40 of electronic health records; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Hawaii Health Care Summit is
43 requested to submit a report on its recommendations, including
44 any implementing legislation, to the Legislature and the Auditor

1 no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular
2 Session of 2010; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after receipt of the Hawaii
5 Health Care Summit's report, the Office of the Auditor is
6 requested to:

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8 (1) Prepare the Hawaii Health Care Summit plan,
9 incorporating all or a portion of the recommendations
10 reported by the Hawaii Health Care Summit;

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12 (2) Seek input from all state departments and solicit
13 public views and concerns in preparation of the plan;

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15 (3) Submit the Hawaii Health Care Summit plan to the
16 Legislature no later than twenty days before the
17 convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

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19 (4) Update the plan every ten years and report to the
20 Legislature; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Care Summit
23 shall cease to operate after the adjournment sine die of the
24 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature; and

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