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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON  
LEGISLATION MANDATING COVERAGE OF PALLIATIVE CARE.

1           WHEREAS, palliative care is the medical specialty focused  
2 on the relief or management of pain, stress, and other  
3 debilitating symptoms of serious or chronic disease; and  
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5           WHEREAS, palliative care is a patient-centered discipline  
6 that seeks to address physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual  
7 issues facing a person affected by chronic or serious disease  
8 through holistic treatment modalities; and  
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10           WHEREAS, palliative care may be provided at any stage of a  
11 disease and in conjunction with other treatments, including  
12 curative treatment; and  
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14           WHEREAS, palliative care is an important component of  
15 treatment for chronic or serious illness or disorders that  
16 manifest complex and interconnected physical, mental, and  
17 emotional symptoms; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, palliative care can reduce the cost of treating  
20 chronic or serious disease by reducing the need for medical or  
21 pharmaceutical intervention to treat symptoms such as emotional  
22 distress or pain; and  
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24           WHEREAS, palliative care may incorporate services provided  
25 to the affected individual as well as to family or caregivers;  
26 and  
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28           WHEREAS, palliative care is often provided by a team of  
29 providers that includes both traditional medical practitioners  
30 such as doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and psychologists  
31 and by a variety of other licensed practitioners such as  
32 naturopathic physicians, massage therapists, nutritionists,  
33 counselors, and social workers; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation identified  
3 several barriers to accessing palliative care including a  
4 financial structure that prioritizes curative care and  
5 discourages palliative care; and  
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7 WHEREAS, mandatory insurance coverage of palliative care  
8 would accomplish the twin goals of eliminating financial  
9 barriers to access for individuals and creating incentives for  
10 the inclusion of palliative care in mainstream health care,  
11 therefore eliminating structural barriers to the provision of  
12 palliative care; and  
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14 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires  
15 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health  
16 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific  
17 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part  
18 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be  
19 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed  
20 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature  
21 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of  
22 the proposed mandated coverage"; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further  
25 provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a  
26 specific legislative bill that:  
27

- 28 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and  
29  
30 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:  
31  
32 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider  
33 that would be covered;  
34  
35 (B) Extent of the coverage;  
36  
37 (C) Target groups that would be covered;  
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39 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and  
40  
41 (E) Standards of care.  
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43 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage  
44 shall not include mandated optionals"; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further  
3 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the  
4 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage  
5 mandate in the Auditor's report; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 941 (2011) mandates that health insurers  
8 provide coverage for palliative care, effective July 1, 2011;  
9 now, therefore,

10  
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
14 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to  
15 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social  
16 and financial impacts of mandating health insurance coverage for  
17 palliative care, effective as of July 1, 2011, as provided in  
18 S.B. No. 941 (2011); and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
21 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,  
22 including any necessary implementing legislation, not later than  
23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
24 2012; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and  
28 Insurance Commissioner, who in turn is requested to transmit  
29 copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance  
30 policies.

