
HOUSE 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
4

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
9

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
13

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
23

24 WHEREAS, palliative care may incorporate services provided
25 to the affected individual as well as to family or caregivers;
26 and
27

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 disincentivizes palliative care; and
6

7 WHEREAS, mandatory insurance coverage of palliative care
8 would accomplish the twin goals of eliminating financial
9 barriers to access for individuals and incentivizing the
10 inclusion of palliative care in mainstream health care,
11 therefore eliminating structural barriers to its provision; and
12

13 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
14 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
15 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
16 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
17 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
18 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
19 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
20 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
21 the proposed mandated coverage"; and
22

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

- 27 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
28
29 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:
30
31 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
32 that would be covered;
33
34 (B) Extent of the coverage;
35
36 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
37
38 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
39
40 (E) Standards of care.
41

42 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
43 shall not include mandated optionals"; and
44



