
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES, PRIVATE HEALTH INSURERS, AND PRIVATE HEALTH PROVIDERS TO ADOPT THE PRINCIPLES AND HEALTH CARE GUIDELINES IN THE DARTMOUTH ATLAS OF HEALTH CARE.

1 WHEREAS, for more than 20 years, the Dartmouth Atlas of
2 Health Care has documented glaring variations in how medical
3 resources are distributed and used in the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas Project uses Medicare data to
6 provide information and analysis about national, regional, and
7 local markets, as well as hospitals and their affiliated
8 physicians; and
9

10 WHEREAS, this research has helped policymakers, the media,
11 health care analysts, and others improve their understanding of
12 the nation's health care system and forms the foundation for
13 many of the ongoing efforts to improve health and health systems
14 in America; and
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16 WHEREAS, many of the fundamental ideas covered in the
17 Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care are of great use in improving
18 Hawaii's health care system; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care focuses on the
21 issue of rapidly increasing Medicare spending and rapidly rising
22 health care costs, which pose a serious threat not only to the
23 future of public and private health insurance coverage, but also
24 to the sustainability of efforts to expand coverage to the
25 millions of uninsured Americans; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care reports many
28 additional studies and articles relating to Medicare that



1 include expenditure measures by hospital referral region;
2 information on health care spending, quality, and outcomes; and
3 its project brief, "The Policy Implications of Variations in
4 Medicare Spending Growth", which all may be used by insurance
5 companies and health care providers to improve their decision-
6 making; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care also contains
9 an extensive amount of information available to Hawaii's
10 insurance providers on supply-sensitive care, which refers to
11 the major influence that the availability of specific resources
12 has on utilization rates; and

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14 WHEREAS, supply-sensitive care patterns account for more
15 than half of all Medicare spending and understanding the problem
16 of supply-sensitive care is a critical first step toward
17 improving the quality and affordability of health care, building
18 organized delivery systems, and scaling back costs and cost
19 growth; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care has
22 demonstrated that:

- 23
24 (1) In regions where there are relatively fewer medical
25 resources, patients get less care; however, there is
26 no evidence that these patients are worse off than
27 their counterparts in high-resourced, high-spending
28 regions;
- 29
30 (2) Patients do not experience improved survival or better
31 quality of life if they live in regions with more
32 available care: in fact, the care these patients
33 receive appears to be worse; and
- 34
35 (3) Patients in high-resourced, high-spending regions
36 report being less satisfied with their care than do
37 patients in regions that spend less on health care and
38 have more trouble accessing their physicians; and

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40 WHEREAS, most studies have found that overall mortality is
41 not better in higher-spending regions because the benefits to
42 some patients are counterbalanced by the harm to others; and



1 WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care provides
 2 valuable information on the patterns of health care delivery and
 3 practice across the United States and evaluates the quality of
 4 health care that Americans receive; now, therefore,

5
 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 7 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 8 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Centers for Medicare &
 9 Medicaid Services, private health insurers, and private health
 10 providers are urged to adopt the principles and health care
 11 guidelines in the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the
 15 Department of Health and Human Services, Administrator of the
 16 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Hawaii's Congressional
 17 Delegation, Governor of Hawaii, Director of Health, Director of
 18 Human Services, Board President of AlohaCare, President and
 19 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Management Alliance
 20 Association, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
 21 Medical Service Association, Chairperson and Chief Executive
 22 Officer of Humana Insurance Company, President of Kaiser
 23 Foundation Health Plan, Inc., President and Chief Executive
 24 Officer of Summerlin Life & Health Insurance Co., President of
 25 United Health Alliance, President and Chief Executive Officer of
 26 United Healthcare Insurance Company, and Chief Executive Officer
 27 of Wellcare Health Insurance of Arizona Inc.
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OFFERED BY: *Rice V. Cabanilla*

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