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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES AND MEDICAL INSURANCE PROVIDERS TO CREATE A PENALTY OR DISINCENTIVE FOR THOSE WHO ABUSE EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS.

1           WHEREAS, the high cost of health care should be everyone's  
2 concern; and

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4           WHEREAS, emergency room visits are six times more expensive  
5 than regular office visits and unnecessary emergency room visits  
6 add to increased health care costs that are passed on to federal  
7 and state governments and, in turn, burden all taxpayers; and

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9           WHEREAS, emergency rooms are a part of our health care  
10 system and are required to provide care to all people whether  
11 they can pay or not and, therefore, emergency rooms have turned  
12 into clinics for those who are uninsured, underinsured,  
13 homeless, and addicted to illegal drugs; and

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15           WHEREAS, studies show that the majority of people who use  
16 emergency rooms for non-emergency treatment have no insurance,  
17 or are covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or equivalent state-  
18 provided insurance; and

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20           WHEREAS, non-emergency visits to emergency rooms prolong  
21 wait times, cause serious threats to the proper functioning of  
22 emergency rooms, and negatively impact those who truly need  
23 immediate attention; and

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25           WHEREAS, the frequency of these non-emergency visits to  
26 emergency rooms makes it very difficult to implement the triage  
27 system; and



1 WHEREAS, emergency rooms are intended for those with  
2 serious medical problems and those needing immediate care, but  
3 many beds are being used for non-emergency treatment; and  
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5 WHEREAS, charging co-payments for emergency room use will  
6 curb abuse; and  
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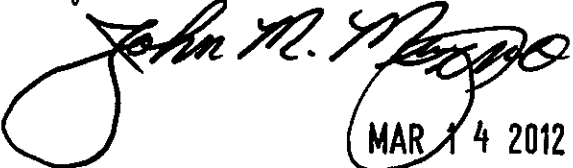
8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that people who were charged  
9 co-payments used emergency rooms twenty to forty percent less  
10 than those who were not charged co-payments; now, therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the  
15 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and major medical  
16 insurance providers to find a solution to curb emergency room  
17 abuse; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Centers for Medicare &  
20 Medicaid Services and major medical insurers are urged to impose  
21 a fine, charge a co-payment, or levy sanctions against members  
22 who abuse the intended use of an emergency room; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the  
26 Department of Health and Human Services, Administrator of the  
27 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Director of Human  
28 Services, and the Insurance Commissioner.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
  
MAR 14 2012

