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# HOUSE 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  
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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  
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27           WHEREAS, the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care reports many  
28 additional studies and articles relating to Medicare that  
29 include expenditure measures by hospital referral region;  
30 information on health care spending, quality, and outcomes; and



1 its project brief, "The Policy Implications of Variations in  
2 Medicare Spending Growth", which all may be used by insurance  
3 companies and health care providers to improve their decision-  
4 making; and

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

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

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

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22 (1) In regions where there are relatively fewer medical  
23 resources, patients get less care; however, there is  
24 no evidence that these patients are worse off than  
25 their counterparts in high-resourced, high-spending  
26 regions;

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28 (2) Patients do not experience improved survival or better  
29 quality of life if they live in regions with more  
30 available care: in fact, the care these patients  
31 receive appears to be worse; and

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33 (3) Patients in high-resourced, high-spending regions  
34 report being less satisfied with their care than do  
35 patients in regions that spend less on health care and  
36 have more trouble accessing their physicians; and

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38 WHEREAS, most studies have found that overall mortality is  
39 not better in higher-spending regions because the benefits to  
40 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,  
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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, that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,  
 9 private health insurers, and private health providers are urged  
 10 to adopt the principles and health care guidelines in the  
 11 Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department of  
 15 Health and Human Services, Administrator of the Centers for  
 16 Medicare & Medicaid Services, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation,  
 17 Governor of Hawaii, Director of Health, Director of Human  
 18 Services, Board President of AlohaCare, President and Chief  
 19 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Management Alliance Association,  
 20 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical  
 21 Service Association, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of  
 22 Humana Insurance Company, President of Kaiser Foundation Health  
 23 Plan, Inc., President and Chief Executive Officer of Summerlin  
 24 Life & Health Insurance Co., President of United Health  
 25 Alliance, President and Chief Executive Officer of United  
 26 Healthcare Insurance Company, and Chief Executive Officer of  
 27 Wellcare Health Insurance of Arizona Inc.  
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OFFERED BY: 



