

MAR 14 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE
FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

1 WHEREAS, "autism spectrum disorders" means any of the
2 pervasive developmental disorders as defined by the most recent
3 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental
4 Disorders, including autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder,
5 pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, Rett's
6 disorder, and childhood disintegrative disorder; and
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8 WHEREAS, autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental
9 disorders in the United States, and the Centers for Disease
10 Control and Prevention estimate that one in one hundred ten
11 children in the United States are affected by an autism spectrum
12 disorder; and
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14 WHEREAS, approximately seventy-five to eighty-six percent
15 of children who receive early intervention services between the
16 ages of two and seven will develop some form of functional
17 communication by age nine; and
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19 WHEREAS, since the Auditor prepared a report, "Study of the
20 Social and Financial Impacts of Mandatory Health Insurance
21 Coverage for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Autism Spectrum
22 Disorders" in 2009 in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution
23 No. 196, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2008, both the frequency of
24 diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder and the number of states
25 with legislation requiring insurance coverage for its treatment
26 have increased; and
27

28 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
29 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
30 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
31 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
32 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be



1 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
2 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
3 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
4 the proposed mandated coverage"; and

5
6 WHEREAS, section 23-51 further provides that "[t]he
7 concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative
8 bill that:

- 9
10 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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12 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:
13
14 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
15 that would be covered;
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17 (B) Extent of the coverage;
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19 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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21 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
22
23 (E) Standards of care.

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25 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
26 shall not include mandated optionals"; and

27
28 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
29 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
30 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
31 mandate in the Auditor's report; and

32
33 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. (2012) mandates coverage of
34 autism spectrum disorders for all policies and contracts for
35 accident and health or sickness insurance, mutual benefit
36 societies, and health maintenance organization plans and
37 contracts issued after December 31, 2012; and

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39 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health
40 insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders, as provided in
41 Senate Bill No. (2012), will substantially reduce the impact
42 of autism spectrum disorders and assist in the maintenance of
43 good health for the people of this State; now, therefore,
44



S.C.R. NO. 128

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the
 3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
 4 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to
 5 sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social
 6 and financial impacts of mandating coverage of autism spectrum
 7 disorders, as provided in Senate Bill No. (2012); and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor's assessment is
 10 specifically requested to address the effects of the increase in
 11 frequency of diagnoses of autism spectrum disorders and the
 12 increased number of states that have passed legislation
 13 requiring insurance coverage for the treatment of autism
 14 spectrum disorders; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
 17 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
 18 including any proposed implementing legislation, no later than
 19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 20 2013; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and to the
 24 Insurance Commissioner, who in turn is requested to transmit
 25 copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance
 26 policies.
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OFFERED BY: John M.
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