

MAR 12 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY WAYS TO INCREASE COMPETITION IN HAWAII'S HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET.

1 WHEREAS, the availability of affordable health insurance is
2 of critical importance to all of Hawaii's residents; and
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4 WHEREAS, a significant percentage of Hawaii's population
5 does not have health insurance; and
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7 WHEREAS, employers and individuals who purchase health
8 insurance must pay high premiums that are increased on a
9 frequent basis; and
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11 WHEREAS, health care providers in Hawaii are reimbursed by
12 insurers at lower rates than their counterparts on the mainland,
13 and this results in the loss of doctors and providers in the
14 State; and
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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's market for health insurance is dominated
17 by a small number of health insurers; and
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19 WHEREAS, the cost of health insurance premiums to consumers
20 would decrease if there existed greater competition among health
21 insurers caused by a larger number of health insurers offering
22 products in Hawaii's market; and
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24 WHEREAS, in addition to lower premium costs for consumers,
25 health care providers would benefit from higher reimbursement
26 rates caused by the presence of more health insurers in Hawaii;
27 now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,
31 that the Insurance Commissioner is requested to form a working
32 group to study ways to increase competition in Hawaii's health
33 insurance market; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Insurance Commissioner is
36 requested to include as working group members:



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- 2 (1) The Insurance Commissioner, who shall serve as chair;
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- 4 (2) The Director of Health;
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- 6 (3) The Director of Human Services;
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- 8 (4) Representatives of the health care provider community;
- 9 and
- 10
- 11 (5) Consumer stakeholders; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
14 to:

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- 16 (1) Review conditions in the health insurance market in
- 17 Hawaii;
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- 19 (2) Review existing laws and policies relating to health
- 20 insurers in Hawaii;
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- 22 (3) Recommend strategies to attract additional health
- 23 insurers to enter Hawaii's insurance market;
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- 25 (4) Recommend innovative and affordable new insurance
- 26 products; and
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- 28 (5) Model the effect of additional health insurers in
- 29 Hawaii on premium rates and provider reimbursement
- 30 rates; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
33 to report its findings and recommendations, including any
34 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
35 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2013; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Insurance Commissioner;
3 Director of Health; and the Director of Human Services.
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OFFERED BY: 
by request

