
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS BOTH THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE COSTS OF MEDICALLY NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES FOR QUALIFYING PATIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, critically ill patients in Hawaii may require
2 treatment on the continental United States; and

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4 WHEREAS, commercial flights are not an option for these
5 patients because each patient requires life-supporting equipment
6 and a medical support team; and

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8 WHEREAS, the cost of transportation by an air ambulance can
9 be a significant financial burden that may not be covered by
10 insurance; and

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12 WHEREAS, although Medicaid currently covers the cost of
13 transportation to the continental United States for Hawaii's
14 most needy families, those who are middle-income earners and
15 working full-time do not receive comparable coverage; and

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17 WHEREAS, for many patients requiring transportation to the
18 continental United States, their only options are to mortgage
19 their homes, drain retirement savings, borrow from family or
20 friends, or establish an online campaign to raise funds; and

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22 WHEREAS, during the time that a family is fundraising for a
23 sick loved one, the patient's condition may rapidly deteriorate
24 and reduce the chance of recovery; and

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26 WHEREAS, if a delay in treatment is too long, then the
27 accepting facility on the mainland may give the patient's bed to
28 another individual, and the patient is forced to find another
29 accepting facility; and



1 WHEREAS, due to Hawaii's unique position in the middle of
2 the Pacific Ocean, the State's residents deserve to receive
3 life-saving medical care that is not available in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 687, H.D. 2, considered during the
6 Regular Session of 2018, proposes to require insurance coverage
7 for the costs of medically necessary transportation to the
8 continental United States for qualifying patients; and
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10 WHEREAS, in testimony submitted to the House of
11 Representatives Standing Committee on Consumer Protection and
12 Commerce regarding H.B. No. 687, H.D. 1, the Hawaii Medical
13 Service Association suggested that the measure be amended by
14 amending the term "qualifying patient" to mean a patient who is,
15 among other qualifying criteria, on medically-necessary
16 extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or mechanical circulatory
17 support (including percutaneous ventricular assist devices and
18 intraaortic balloon pump therapies) in order to qualify for the
19 mandated coverage proposed in the measure; and
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21 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 687, H.D. 2, does not incorporate the
22 foregoing requested amendment; and
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24 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised
25 Statutes, before any legislative measure that mandates health
26 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
27 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
28 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
29 considered, concurrent resolutions shall be passed that
30 designate a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to prepare
31 a report, which is commonly known as a "sunrise review", for
32 submission to the Legislature that assesses both the social and
33 financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage under that
34 legislative bill; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
39 assess, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, both
40 the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated health
41 insurance coverage under H.B. No. 687, H.D. 2, Regular Session
42 of 2018, which requires insurance coverage for the costs of
43 medically necessary transportation to the continental United
44 States for qualifying patients; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the course of conducting its
2 assessment, the Auditor is requested to assess the social and
3 financial effects of amending the existing definition of the
4 term "qualifying patient", as it appears in H.B. No. 687, H.D.
5 2, to include a provision that requires a patient be on
6 medically-necessary extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or
7 mechanical circulatory support (including percutaneous
8 ventricular assist devices and intraaortic balloon pump
9 therapies) to qualify for the mandated covered benefit proposed
10 in the measure; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
13 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
14 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
15 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
16 2019; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor.

