

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL  
EFFECTS OF MANDATING COVERAGE OF ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH  
SCREENING.

1           WHEREAS, according to the National Institute for Mental  
2 Health, in 2019, approximately 51,500,000, or eighteen percent,  
3 of adults in the United States experiences a mental illness or  
4 disorder; and

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6           WHEREAS, only forty-four percent of those individuals  
7 received mental health services for their mental illness; and

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9           WHEREAS, mental health issues are closely tied to physical  
10 health issues such as increased occurrences of chronic diseases  
11 such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma,  
12 epilepsy, and cancer; and

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14           WHEREAS, mental health issues cost the United States  
15 economy close to \$200,000,000,000 in lost wages in addition to  
16 \$100,000,000,000 in healthcare costs; and

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18           WHEREAS, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the  
19 United States, costing approximately \$51,000,000,000 each year;  
20 and

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22           WHEREAS, S.B. No. 728, Regular Session of 2021, would  
23 require health insurers and similar entities that provide  
24 coverage for health care to provide coverage for annual mental  
25 health screenings; and

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27           WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised  
28 Statutes, before any legislative measure that mandates health  
29 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific  
30 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part  
31 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be  
32 considered, a concurrent resolution shall be passed that



1 designates a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to review  
 2 and on which to prepare a report for submission to the  
 3 Legislature that assesses both the social and financial effects  
 4 of the proposed mandated coverage under that legislative bill;  
 5 now, therefore,

6  
 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
 8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
 9 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
 10 requested to conduct an assessment, pursuant to sections 23-51  
 11 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and financial  
 12 effects of mandating health care coverage of annual mental  
 13 health screenings, as provided in S.B. No. 728, Regular Session  
 14 of 2021; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
 17 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
 18 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
 19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 20 2022; and

21  
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and  
 24 Insurance Commissioner.

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OFFERED BY: 

