
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO COVER MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPISTS' SERVICES WITHIN MENTAL HEALTH AND
ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS.

1 WHEREAS, marriage and family therapists assist individuals
2 and families with emotional, behavioral, and relationship
3 problems; and
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5 WHEREAS, therapists help people with childhood and
6 adolescent problems, marriages in crisis, families needing
7 assistance with senior parents, and provide assistance in the
8 areas of domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, and
9 substance abuse; and
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11 WHEREAS, marriage and family therapists work in private
12 practice, hospitals, schools, colleges, court systems, community
13 mental health centers, health maintenance organizations, and
14 employee assistance programs; and
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16 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health has
17 recognized the field of marriage and family therapy as one of
18 the five core mental health disciplines along with psychiatry,
19 psychology, clinical social work, and psychiatric nursing; and
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21 WHEREAS, chapter 451J, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
22 defines marriage and family therapy practice as "the application
23 of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques
24 to diagnose and treat mental, emotional, and nervous disorders
25 within the context of an individual's relationships"; and
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27 WHEREAS, H.B. No. , introduced in 2007, mandates
28 coverage of marriage and family therapist services under the
29 mental health and alcohol and drug abuse treatment benefits
30 required by chapter 431M, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in individual
31 or group hospital or medical service plan contracts, and



H.C.R. NO. 256

1 nonprofit mutual benefit society and health maintenance
2 organization plans and contracts; and

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4 WHEREAS, section 23-51, HRS, requires that:

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6 *[b]efore any legislative measure that*
7 *mandates health insurance coverage for*
8 *specific health services, specific diseases,*
9 *or certain providers of health care services*
10 *as part of individual or group health*
11 *insurance policies, can be considered, there*
12 *shall be concurrent resolutions passed*
13 *requesting the auditor to prepare and submit*
14 *to the legislature a report that assesses*
15 *both the social and financial effects of the*
16 *proposed mandated coverage;*

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18 now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is
23 requested to report on the social and financial impacts of
24 mandating coverage for the services of marriage and family
25 therapists as provided in H.B. No. (2007); and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
28 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature at least
29 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008;
30 and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor.

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OFFERED BY: Mele Carroll
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