

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCREASE THE MEDICARE
REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Medicare uses monthly per person, or per capita,
2 county rates to determine payments to managed care plans; and
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4 WHEREAS, in the last decade, the United States Congress has
5 made several changes to how the Centers for Medicare and
6 Medicaid Services calculate these county rates; and
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8 WHEREAS, under the old system, managed care rates and local
9 fee-for-service costs were linked and payment rates per county
10 varied widely; and
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12 WHEREAS, a new rate-setting methodology was created under
13 the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, that eliminated this link and
14 reduced the wide disparities in county capitation rates; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and
17 Modernization Act of 2003, returned to the concept of linking
18 managed care rates and local fee-for-service costs; and
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20 WHEREAS, Hawaii is among the states that receive the lowest
21 Medicare reimbursement in the nation; and
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23 WHEREAS, the current formula used to set the Medicare
24 reimbursement rates strives to control overall spending without
25 calculating the overall costs of providing healthcare or
26 including the cost of living in a particular area; and
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28 WHEREAS, as a result, reimbursement rates are not keeping
29 pace with the rising cost of delivering healthcare in this
30 State; and
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1 WHEREAS, while costs in Hawaii are comparable to other
2 states such as California, Hawaii's Medicare reimbursement rates
3 are lower; and

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5 WHEREAS, this is causing an immeasurable strain on our
6 healthcare system as physicians leave the State and hospitals
7 try to absorb the unfunded costs because of inadequate
8 reimbursement rates; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
13 Congress is urged to reexamine the way that Medicare is
14 administered and funded; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Congress is
17 urged to create a more equitable formula that considers the
18 overall costs of providing healthcare and reduces the disparity
19 in reimbursement rates between areas with comparable costs of
20 living; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of
24 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House
25 of Representatives, and the members of the Hawaii Congressional
26 delegation.

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29 OFFERED BY: Suzanne Chun Oalland

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