HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL HEALTH CARE ACT.

WHEREAS, every person in the State of Hawaii deserves to have high quality and affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, the cost of health care in Hawaii and the nation is escalating exponentially; and

WHEREAS, health insurance premium costs and prescription drug costs are rising rapidly; and

WHEREAS, today, more than one hundred thousand Hawaii residents are without any health care insurance coverage, and more than twelve thousand of the uninsured are children; and

WHEREAS, many other Hawaii residents are under-insured, or unable to use their insurance properly or even at all, because of increasingly expensive deductibles and out-of-pocket co-payments for outpatient visits, diagnostic tests, and prescription drugs, among other factors; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing crisis in health care across the United States of America, manifested in rising health care costs, increased premiums, out-of-pocket spending, decreased international business competitiveness, and massive layoffs; and

WHEREAS, medical bills contribute to half of all bankruptcies, and three-quarters of those who have filed for bankruptcy had health insurance at the on-set of the illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the increasing expense of Medicaid and the rising costs of insuring state employees and teachers can best be met not by limiting benefits, but by expanding them under a national, publicly-funded health insurance program; and

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WHEREAS, the United States Representatives John Convers and Dennis Kucinich have introduced H.R. 676, the United States National Health Care Act, in the United States House of Representatives for the 111th Congress, and this Act would provide a universal, comprehensive, single payer system of high quality national health insurance; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the Senate concurring, that this Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to enact H.R. 676, the United States National Health Care Act; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: Number Trout

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