HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010 STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. 35

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO OPPOSE PROPOSALS TO CREATE A FEDERAL INSURANCE OFFICE.

WHEREAS, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators 1 is an organization of state legislators that has an interest in 2 insurance legislation and regulation; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, legislation introduced in 2008 by Congressman Paul Kanjorski would create a federal Office of Insurance Information 6 7 at the United States Department of the Treasury; and 8 9 WHEREAS, in response to this legislation, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators has gone on record to oppose 10 the creation of a federal insurance office; and 11 12 WHEREAS, one of the main reasons that the National 13 Conference of Insurance Legislators opposes a federal insurance 14 office is because the entity is one that may be authorized to 15 preempt state insurance laws and regulations; and 16 17 18 WHEREAS, on May 21, 2009, Congressman Kanjorski introduced House Resolution 2609, referred to as the Insurance Information 19 Act of 2009, to authorize the Office of Insurance Information to 20 21 gather and analyze insurance data, coordinate federal efforts, and establish federal policy on international insurance matters, 22 and preempt inconsistent state insurance measures; and 23 24 WHEREAS, on June 16, 2009, President Barack Obama unveiled 25 26 his administration's financial services regulatory reform plan, which called for the establishment of an Office of National 27 Insurance at the Treasury Department to identify gaps in 28 regulation that could contribute to a systemic crisis, steer 29 insurers to the Federal Reserve to be regulated as new tier lone 30 financial holding companies, and assist in administering the 31 Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; and 32 33 34 WHEREAS, on October 1, 2009, Congressman Kanjorski substituted his proposed legislation, House Resolution 2609, 35



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1 2 3	renaming it the Federal Insurance Office Act of 2009, with nearly all of the Obama administration's proposals; and
5 4 5 6	WHEREAS, the latest version of House Resolution 2609 would create a more powerful Federal Insurance Office by granting the office the authority to steer insurers to the Federal Reserve
7 8 9	for heightened regulation as well as giving the office open- ended responsibilities; and
10 11 12	WHEREAS, on November 10, 2009, Senator Chris Dodd released a discussion draft of the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2009, which resembles House Resolution 2609; and
13 14 15 16 17 18	WHEREAS, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators continues to strongly oppose House Resolution 2609 and the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2009 because both measures would create a federal insurance office; now, therefore,
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that this body urges the United States Congress to oppose any measure that creates a federal insurance office, including House Resolution 2609, the Federal Insurance Office Act of 2009, and the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2009; and
27 28 29 30 31 32	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to members of Hawaii's congressional delegation and to the Secretary of the United States Treasury Department.
33 34	OFFERED BY:

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