THE SENATE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011 STATE OF HAWAII

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S.C.R. NO. 93

MAR 1 5 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DISCOURAGING THE PRACTICE OF CREATING AND USING SPECIALTY TIERS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN HEALTH PLANS.

1	WHEREAS, Hawaii has long been a leader in ensuring
2	affordable access to health care for its citizens; and
3	
4	WHEREAS, health plans across the country have begun to
5	create specialty tiers for certain prescription drugs that
6	require patients to pay either a much higher copayment or a
7	percentage of the cost of the drug instead of a copayment; and
8	
9	WHEREAS, these specialty drugs are typically new,
10	infusible, or injectible biologics or plasma-derived therapies
11	produced in lesser quantities; and
12	P
13	WHEREAS, many of these specialty drugs are used to treat
14	conditions such as cancer; autoimmune conditions, such as
15	Crohn's diseases, lupus, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis,
16	myositis, scleroderma, and rheumatoid arthritis; hemophilia and
17	other bleeding disorders; hepatitis; primary and secondary
18	immune deficiencies; neuropathy; and transplant patients; and
19	
20	WHEREAS, high out-of-pocket costs for specialty drugs could
21	preclude patients from complying with the treatment protocols
22	prescribed by their doctors and force patients to choose between
23	paying for basic living expenses and taking their medications;
24	and
25	
26	WHEREAS, the health of patients who are unable to afford to
27	take the specialty medicines prescribed by their doctors will
28	further deteriorate, often necessitating more expensive
29	emergency care or forcing them to go on disability, resulting in
30	additional costs to the State; and
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32	WHEREAS, the practice of specialty tiers violates the basic
33	principle of insurance whereby individuals and groups purchase

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health insurance plans so that they are protected from the risk 1 of needing to pay for expensive medical treatments; and 2 3 4 WHEREAS, specialty tiers create a structure where those who are sickest pay more and those who are healthy pay less; and 5 6 7 WHEREAS, specialty tiers will not keep health care costs down because there are no alternatives to these medications and 8 specialty tiers only serve as a barrier to treatment for 9 chronically ill patients; now, therefore, 10 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth 12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the 13 House of Representatives concurring, that the practice of 14 15 creating and using specialty tiers for prescription drugs in health plans is discouraged and should be avoided and eliminated 16 wherever possible; and 17 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director 20 of Health, Director of Human Services, Director of Labor and 21 Industrial Relations, and Insurance Commissioner, who, in turn, 22 is requested to transmit copies to each insurer in the State 23 that issues health insurance policies. 24 25 26 27 OFFERED BY: anne Omen Calland

Will Eno Millet Clauner & Dichiku

