
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MEDICAL
SERVICES FOR WOMEN WITH DENSE BREAST TISSUE.

1 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 373, enacted as Act 5, Session Laws
2 of Hawaii 2013, requires, beginning January 1, 2014, that every
3 health care facility in which a mammography examination is
4 performed provide a mammography report and notification to each
5 patient who is categorized by the facility as having dense
6 breast tissue; and

7
8 WHEREAS, this statutory requirement specifies that the
9 notification must include in the summary of the mammography
10 report sent to the patient, pursuant to the federal Mammography
11 Quality Standards Act, the following information:

12
13 *Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is*
14 *dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not*
15 *abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it*
16 *harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be*
17 *associated with an increased risk of breast cancer.*
18 *This information about the result of your mammogram is*
19 *given to you to raise your awareness. Use this*
20 *information to talk to your physician as to whether,*
21 *based on your risk, more screening tests might be*
22 *useful. A report of your results was sent to your*
23 *physician.; and*

24
25 WHEREAS, further screening is an essential diagnostic tool
26 to detect breast cancer for women who are found to have dense
27 breast tissue; and

28
29 WHEREAS, health insurance coverage for further screening
30 for women found to have dense breast tissue is not available,
31 and, therefore, any additional screening for detection must be
32 borne out-of-pocket and in many instances is cost-prohibitive;
33 and



1 WHEREAS, three states--Connecticut, Illinois, and Indiana--
2 have enacted legislation that mandates health insurance coverage
3 for further screening for women found through mammography to
4 have dense breast tissue; and

5
6 WHEREAS, nationwide, about 50 percent of women are
7 classified as having dense breast tissue; and

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9 WHEREAS, women who receive the notification required by Act
10 5, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, may seek further screening only
11 to be informed that the additional screening is not covered by
12 health insurance in Hawaii; and

13
14 WHEREAS, House Bill No. has been introduced during the
15 Regular Session of 2014 to mandate health insurance coverage for
16 medical services for women with dense breast tissue; and

17
18 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
19 that: "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
20 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
21 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
22 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
23 considered, there shall be Resolutions passed requesting the
24 auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a report that
25 assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed
26 mandated coverage..."; and

27
28 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
29 provides that "[t]he Resolutions shall designate a specific
30 legislative bill that:

- 31
32 (1) Has been introduced in the Legislature; and
33
34 (2) Includes, at minimum, information identifying the:
35
36 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
37 that would be covered;
38
39 (B) Extent of the coverage;



1 (C) Target groups that would be covered;

2
3 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and

4
5 (E) Standards of care."; and

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7 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
8 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
9 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
10 mandate in the Auditor's report; now, therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2014, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an
15 impact assessment report pursuant to sections 23-51 and 23-52,
16 Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and financial effects of
17 mandating health insurance coverage for further screening for
18 women who have been found through a mammography to have dense
19 breast tissue; and

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
22 include in the impact assessment report data as to the incidence
23 of cancer detection upon further screening where evidence of
24 cancer was not found through a standard mammography; and

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of the impact
27 assessment, the Auditor is requested to determine whether the
28 notification requirement in Act 5, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013,
29 is unnecessary such that this Act should be repealed; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
32 submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
33 including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than
34 20 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Insurance
 3 Commissioner, who is requested to transmit a copy of this
 4 Resolution to each insurer in the State that issues a health
 5 insurance policy.

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OFFERED BY:

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