

MAR 03 2016

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO CONVENE A
WORKING GROUP OF INTERESTED PARTIES TO DISCUSS EDUCATION ON
NUTRITION AND LIFESTYLE BEHAVIOR CHANGES FOR THE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASE.

1 WHEREAS, the United States devotes far more of its economy,
2 17.4 per cent of its gross domestic product, to health than any
3 other country; and

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5 WHEREAS, in 2013, United States health care spending
6 reached \$2,900,000,000,000, or about \$9,255 per resident; and

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8 WHEREAS, chronic diseases have played an important role in
9 this cost escalation, and it is estimated that preventable
10 diseases account for approximately seventy-five percent of
11 national health expenditures; and

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13 WHEREAS, according to the federal Centers for Disease
14 Control and Prevention, in 2010, seven of the top ten causes of
15 death among Americans were from chronic diseases, with heart
16 disease and cancer accounting for nearly forty-eight percent of
17 all deaths; and

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19 WHEREAS, chronic disease is one component of the overall
20 health and health care cost challenges faced within the country;

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22 WHEREAS, changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior are a
23 key part of the solution to managing chronic disease and
24 moderating future health care costs; and

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26 WHEREAS, physicians are uniquely positioned to educate
27 patients about the links among chronic disease, diet, and
28 physical activity; and

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30 WHEREAS, fewer than twenty-five percent of physicians
31 believe they have sufficient training to talk to patients about



1 nutrition or physical activity, and less than one-eighth of
2 medical visits include counseling for nutrition; and

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4 WHEREAS, a 2010 survey of nutrition education in the
5 country's medical schools found that nutrition education was
6 covered inadequately or unevenly throughout all levels of
7 medical training; and

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9 WHEREAS, more than one-half of medical school graduates do
10 not believe the nutrition education they receive is sufficient
11 for medical practice; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the John A. Burns
16 School of Medicine is requested to convene a working group of
17 interested parties to discuss nutrition and lifestyle behavior
18 changes for the prevention and treatment of chronic disease; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group's discussion
21 include exploring the potential benefits of:

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23 (1) Periodically disseminating information and educational
24 material regarding the prevention and treatment of
25 chronic disease, through the application of changes in
26 nutrition and lifestyle behavior, to each licensed
27 physician and surgeon and each hospital in the State;
28 and

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30 (2) Setting content standards for continuing education
31 requirements concerning chronic disease, including
32 appropriate information on prevention of chronic
33 disease, and treatment of patients with chronic
34 disease through changes in nutrition and lifestyle
35 behavior; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
38 to convene no later than July 1, 2017; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
41 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
42 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later



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1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
2 of 2018; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the John A.
6 Burns School of Medicine.
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OFFERED BY:

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