
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS BOTH THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE COSTS OF MEDICALLY NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES FOR QUALIFYING PATIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, critically ill patients in Hawaii may require
2 treatment on the continental United States; and
3

4 WHEREAS, in these situations, commercial flights are not an
5 option, as these patients require life-supporting equipment and
6 a medical support team; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the cost of transportation by an air ambulance can
9 be a significant financial burden that may not be covered by
10 health insurance; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Medicaid currently covers the cost of
13 transportation to the continental United States for Hawaii's
14 most needy families, but other individuals and families with
15 private health insurance do not receive comparable coverage; and
16

17 WHEREAS, for many patients requiring transportation to the
18 continental United States, their only options may be to mortgage
19 their homes, drain retirement savings, borrow from family or
20 friends, or establish an online fundraising campaign; and
21

22 WHEREAS, during the time that a family is fundraising for a
23 sick loved one, the patient's condition may rapidly deteriorate
24 and reduce the chance of recovery; and
25

26 WHEREAS, if a delay in treatment is too long, then the
27 accepting facility on the continental United States may give the
28 patient's bed to another individual, which may force the patient
29 to find another accepting facility; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

WHEREAS, due to Hawaii's unique position in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the State's residents deserve to receive life-saving medical care, including care that is only offered at facilities on the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 687, H.D. 2, considered during the Regular Session of 2018, proposes to require health insurance coverage for the costs of medically necessary transportation to the continental United States for qualifying patients; and

WHEREAS, in testimony submitted to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce regarding H.B. No. 687, H.D. 1, the Hawaii Medical Service Association suggested that the measure be amended by amending the term "qualifying patient" to mean a patient who is, among other qualifying criteria, on medically-necessary extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or mechanical circulatory support (including percutaneous ventricular assist devices and intraaortic balloon pump therapies) in order to qualify for the mandated coverage proposed in the measure; and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 687, H.D. 2, does not incorporate this requested amendment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, before any legislative measure that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of individual or group health insurance policies, can be considered, concurrent resolutions shall be passed that designate a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to prepare a report, which is commonly known as a "sunrise review", for submission to the Legislature that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage under that legislative bill; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to assess, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated health insurance coverage under H.B. No. 687, H.D. 2, Regular Session of 2018, which requires insurance coverage for the costs of



1 medically necessary transportation to the continental United
2 States for qualifying patients; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the course of conducting its
5 assessment, the Auditor is requested to assess the social and
6 financial effects of amending the existing definition of the
7 term "qualifying patient", as it appears in H.B. No. 687,
8 H.D. 2, to include a provision that requires a patient be on
9 medically-necessary extracorporeal membrane oxygenation or
10 mechanical circulatory support (including percutaneous
11 ventricular assist devices and intraaortic balloon pump
12 therapies) to qualify for the mandated covered benefit proposed
13 in the measure; and

14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
16 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
17 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
18 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
19 2019; and

20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor.

