

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF MANDATING COVERAGE OF AMBULANCE AND COMMUNITY
PARAMEDICINE SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, community paramedicine is a model of community-
2 based health care in which paramedics and emergency medical
3 technicians (EMTs) function outside their customary emergency
4 response and transport roles in ways that facilitate more
5 appropriate use of emergency care resources and enhance access
6 to primary care and support services for medically underserved
7 populations; and

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9 WHEREAS, community paramedicine allows traditional
10 paramedics and EMTs to care for persons with a variety of
11 chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma at
12 home without transport to a hospital or clinic, which has been
13 shown to benefit patients in underserved areas; and

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15 WHEREAS, community paramedicine programs can help address
16 certain issues such as improving access to primary and
17 preventive care, ensuring that services are triaged
18 appropriately, and alleviating overburdened hospital emergency
19 departments; and

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21 WHEREAS, it is recognized that a substantial number of
22 transfers to a hospital provided by an emergency ambulance
23 service are for health conditions that are not considered to be
24 an emergency, which result not only in wasted healthcare
25 resources but also potentially preventing these life-saving
26 services from individuals who may truly be experiencing a life-
27 threatening emergency; and

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29 WHEREAS, utilizing specially trained EMT and paramedic
30 personnel would increase access to primary and preventive care
31 and decrease unnecessary use of emergency departments, thereby
32 decreasing health care costs; and



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2 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 283, Regular Session of 2021, requires
3 health insurers and similar entities that provide coverage for
4 health care to provide coverage for ambulance and community
5 paramedicine services; and
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7 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised
8 Statutes, before any legislative measure that mandates health
9 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
10 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
11 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
12 considered, a concurrent resolution shall be passed that
13 designates a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to review
14 and on which to prepare a report for submission to the
15 Legislature that assesses both the social and financial effects
16 of the proposed mandated coverage under that legislative bill;
17 now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
22 requested to conduct an assessment, pursuant to sections 23-51
23 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and financial
24 effects of mandating health care coverage of ambulance and
25 community paramedicine services, as provided in S.B. No. 283,
26 Regular Session of 2021; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the assessment,
29 the Auditor is requested to consider the following definition of
30 community paramedicine services: an organized system of
31 services, based on local need, that are provided by EMTs and
32 paramedics integrated into the local or regional health care
33 system and overseen by emergency and primary care physicians,
34 which not only addresses gaps in primary care services, but
35 enables the availability of emergency medical service (EMS)
36 personnel for emergency response in low call volume areas by
37 providing routine use of their clinical skills and additional
38 financial support from these non-EMS activities; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
41 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
42 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than



S.C.R. NO. 251

1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2022; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and
6 Insurance Commissioner.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JBL', is written over a horizontal line.