

MAR 12 2021

SENATE 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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34 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 283, Regular Session of 2021, requires
35 health insurers and similar entities that provide coverage for



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1 health care to provide coverage for ambulance and community
2 paramedicine services; and

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4 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised
5 Statutes, before any legislative measure that mandates health
6 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
7 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
8 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
9 considered, a concurrent resolution shall be passed that
10 designates a specific legislative bill for the Auditor to review
11 and on which to prepare a report for submission to the
12 Legislature that assesses both the social and financial effects
13 of the proposed mandated coverage under that legislative bill;
14 now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
18 that the Auditor is requested to conduct an assessment, pursuant
19 to sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the
20 social and financial effects of mandating health care coverage
21 of ambulance and community paramedicine services, as provided in
22 S.B. No. 283, Regular Session of 2021; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the assessment,
25 the Auditor is requested to consider the following definition of
26 community paramedicine services: an organized system of
27 services, based on local need, that are provided by EMTs and
28 paramedics integrated into the local or regional health care
29 system and overseen by emergency and primary care physicians,
30 which not only addresses gaps in primary care services, but
31 enables the availability of emergency medical service (EMS)
32 personnel for emergency response in low call volume areas by
33 providing routine use of their clinical skills and additional
34 financial support from these non-EMS activities; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
37 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
38 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
39 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
40 2022; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Insurance
3 Commissioner.

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OFFERED BY:



