HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EARLY ACCESS BREAST CANCER SCREENING.

WHEREAS, there is ample data showing annual mammographic screening significantly reduces breast cancer deaths and morbidity and that effective screening programs are in the best interest of Hawaii and its people; and

WHEREAS, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines for screening policies and practice for breast cancer does not recommend screening for women before age fifty, except for women in their forties with a family member with breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, however, research has confirmed an earlier peak age of diagnosis of breast cancer in Asian, Hispanic, and African-American women before age fifty; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results data presented by Dr. Barbara Hernandez of the University of Hawaii Cancer Research Center shows that women of Asian ancestry in Hawaii are the ethnic group most likely to develop breast cancer before the age of fifty; and

WHEREAS, women in Hawaii between the ages of forty and forty-nine have higher incidence of breast cancer compared to the national average; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women have the greatest breast cancer incidence and mortality in Hawaii; and

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WHEREAS, nationally, half of all fatal cancers are diagnosed in women before age fifty in the general population; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the USPSTF guidelines would disproportionately and adversely impact minority women; and

WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that "[b]efore 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, there shall be a concurrent resolution requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage"; and

WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative bill that:

(1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and

(2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:

(A) Specific health service, disease, or provider that would be covered;

(B) Extent of the coverage;

(C) Target groups that would be covered;

(D) Limitations on utilization, if any; and

(E) Standards of care.

For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage shall not include mandated optionals."; and

WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further specifies the minimum information required for assessing the

social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage mandate in the State Auditor's report; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 827, S.D. 2, introduced in the Regular Session of 2021, proposes to expand existing mandated breast cancer screening health insurance coverage to include:

(1) A baseline mammogram for women age thirty-five to thirty-nine;

(2) An annual mammogram for women age thirty to fifty deemed to have an above-average risk for breast cancer; and

(3) Any additional supplemental imaging deemed medically necessary by an applicable American College of Radiology guideline for women of any age; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that expanding existing mandatory health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening to include baseline mammograms for women between the ages of thirty-five and thirty-nine will increase the likelihood of early identification of breast cancer and save lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an impact assessment report in accordance with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of mandating health insurance coverage for early access breast cancer screening as proposed by Senate Bill No. 827, S.D. 2 (Regular Session of 2021); and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is further requested to include in its assessment the impact of section 1311(d)(3) of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on Senate Bill No. 827, S.D.2, or similar legislation, that includes but is not limited to the additional cost of any benefits beyond the essential health benefits of Hawaii's qualified health plans under the PPACA; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is also requested to determine how many qualified health plans are available in Hawaii, including plans offered by health maintenance organizations; the individual or group enrollment in these plans; and the actuarial cost of the defrayment to the State for early breast cancer screening; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report on the Auditor's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Insurance Commissioner, who is requested to transmit copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance polices.

OFFERED BY:

