
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE
FOR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT MEDICATION.

1 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health has reported
2 that obesity and being overweight are now the second leading
3 cause of death nationally, with an estimated three hundred
4 thousand deaths a year attributed to the epidemic; and

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6 WHEREAS, obesity increases the risk for chronic diseases
7 and conditions, including high blood pressure, heart disease,
8 certain cancers, arthritis, mental illness, lipid disorders,
9 sleep apnea, and type 2 diabetes; and

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11 WHEREAS, clinicians increasingly recognize that obesity is
12 closely linked to genetics and environmental factors; and

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14 WHEREAS, more than half of Medicare beneficiaries are
15 treated for five or more chronic conditions per year; and

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17 WHEREAS, the rate of obesity among Medicare beneficiaries
18 doubled from 1987 to 2002 and nearly doubled again by 2016, with
19 Medicare spending on individuals with obesity during that time
20 rising proportionately to reach \$50 billion in 2014; and

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22 WHEREAS, on average, a Medicare beneficiary with obesity
23 costs \$2,018 more than a healthy-weight beneficiary; and

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25 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
26 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
27 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
28 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
29 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
30 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
31 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature



1 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
2 the proposed mandated coverage"; and

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

- 7
8 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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10 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:
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12 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
13 that would be covered;
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15 (B) Extent of the coverage;
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17 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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19 (D) Limitations on utilization, if any; and
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21 (E) Standards of care.

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

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26 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
27 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
28 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
29 mandate in the Auditor's report; and

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31 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. , introduced in the Regular
32 Session of 2023, proposes to expand existing health insurance
33 mandates to cover weight management medication for persons who
34 are obese or overweight with one or more related comorbidities;
35 now, therefore,

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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
39 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is
40 requested to conduct an impact assessment report in accordance
41 with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of
42 mandating health insurance coverage for weight management



H.C.R. NO. 10

1 medication as proposed in Senate Bill No. , introduced in
2 the Regular Session of 2023; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is further
5 requested to include in its assessment the impact of section
6 1311(d)(3) of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care
7 Act (PPACA) on Senate Bill No. , or similar legislation that
8 includes but is not limited to the additional cost of any
9 benefits beyond the essential health benefits of Hawaii's
10 qualified health plans under the PPACA; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is also requested
13 to determine how many qualified health plans are available in
14 Hawaii, including plans offered by health maintenance
15 organizations; the individual or group enrollment in these
16 plans; and the actuarial cost of the defrayment to the State for
17 the reimbursement of weight management medication; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
20 submit a report on its findings and recommendations, including
21 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
22 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
23 2024; and

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

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OFFERED BY: George Ann B12
JAN 25 2023

