
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 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, Senate Bill No. 1020, introduced in the Regular
26 Session of 2023, proposes to expand existing health insurance
27 mandates to cover weight management medication for persons who
28 are obese or overweight with one or more related comorbidities;
29 now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
33 Session of 2023, that the Department of Health is requested to
34 conduct an impact assessment report of mandating health
35 insurance coverage for weight management medication as proposed



1 in Senate Bill No. 1020, introduced in the Regular Session of
2 2023; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
5 further requested to include in its assessment the impact of
6 section 1311(d)(3) of the federal Patient Protection and
7 Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on Senate Bill No. 1020, or similar
8 legislation that includes but is not limited to the additional
9 cost of any benefits beyond the essential health benefits of
10 Hawaii's qualified health plans under the PPACA; and

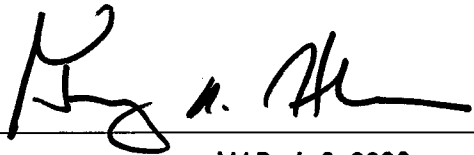
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
13 also requested to determine how many qualified health plans are
14 available in Hawaii, including plans offered by health
15 maintenance organizations; the individual or group enrollment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

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

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Department of Health 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:



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