

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE
FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY PROTON BEAM THERAPY FOR CANCER
TREATMENT.

1 WHEREAS, cancer remains one of the leading causes of
2 morbidity and mortality in Hawaii; and
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4 WHEREAS, radiation therapy is a common and effective
5 treatment modality for many types of cancer; and
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7 WHEREAS, proton beam therapy is an advanced form of
8 radiation therapy that delivers radiation with greater
9 precision, reducing radiation exposure to surrounding healthy
10 tissues and potentially reducing treatment-related side effects;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, proton beam therapy is considered medically
14 necessary for certain cancer patients, particularly those with
15 tumors located near critical organs or tissues; and
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17 WHEREAS, coverage for proton beam therapy under commercial
18 health insurance policies in Hawaii is inconsistent and may be
19 subject to restrictive clinical criteria; and
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21 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
22 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
23 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
24 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
25 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
26 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
27 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
28 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
29 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) Limits 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 insurance mandate in the Auditor's report; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 2145, introduced in the Regular Session of 2026, mandates health insurance coverage for medically necessary proton beam therapy for cancer treatment and prohibits imposing stricter clinical evidence standards on proton beam therapy than on other radiation treatments for all policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued or renewed by health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations on or after January 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health insurance coverage for medically necessary proton beam therapy will improve access to appropriate cancer treatment and improve treatment outcomes, quality of life, and long-term health for cancer patients; now, therefore,



S.C.R. NO. 190

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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
5 requested to conduct an impact assessment report in accordance
6 with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, on
7 mandating health insurance coverage for medically necessary
8 proton beam therapy for cancer treatment as proposed by House
9 Bill No. 2145 (Regular Session of 2026); and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
12 submit a report of the Auditor's findings and recommendations,
13 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
14 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
15 of 2027; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor.
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OFFERED BY:

Karl Rhoads