
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING THE HAWAII HEALTH PLAN WORKING GROUP TO DESIGN AND
RECOMMEND A BASIC, AFFORDABLE HAWAII HEALTH PLAN AVAILABLE
TO EVERY RESIDENT OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the federal Premium Tax Credit is a refundable tax
2 credit that helps reduce the amount that eligible individuals
3 and families pay each month for coverage under a qualified
4 health plan purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, in 2021, Congress enhanced the Premium Tax Credit,
8 making health insurance more affordable for approximately
9 22,000,000 to 24,000,000 people in the United States; and
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11 WHEREAS, at the end of 2025, the enhanced portion of the
12 Premium Tax Credit expired and was not extended by Congress, and
13 this risks making health insurance unaffordable for millions of
14 individuals across the country; and
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16 WHEREAS, Public Law 119-25, also known as the One Big
17 Beautiful Bill Act, also authorized and expanded Medicaid work
18 requirements; and
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20 WHEREAS, these changes by the federal government are
21 expected to leave an estimated six to seven percent of the
22 State's population without health insurance coverage; and
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24 WHEREAS, in the late 1980s, Hawaii faced a similar problem
25 in which an estimated five percent of the State's population
26 lacked health insurance. In response, the Legislature enacted
27 Act 378, Session Laws of Hawaii 1989, known as the State Health
28 Insurance Program Act, to help subsidize insurance coverage for
29 qualifying uninsured residents; and
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1 WHEREAS, the State Health Insurance Program Act was
2 generally successful in providing affordable health insurance to
3 residents who would otherwise lack health insurance coverage;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, a similar program, if enacted today, may help to
7 provide health insurance coverage for the tens of thousands of
8 Hawaii residents who are expected to become uninsured under the
9 new federal standards; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Senate and the
14 House of Representatives hereby jointly establish the Hawaii
15 Health Plan Working Group to design and recommend a basic,
16 affordable Hawaii Health Plan available to every resident of the
17 State; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall
20 comprise the following:

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22 (1) The Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Senate
23 and House of Representatives having primary
24 jurisdiction over health, or the chairs' designees,
25 who shall serve as co-chairs of the working group;
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27 (2) A representative from the Office of the Governor, to
28 be appointed by the Governor;
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30 (3) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner's
31 designee;
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33 (4) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, or the
34 Director's designee;
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36 (5) The Administrator of the State Health Planning and
37 Development Agency, or the Administrator's designee;
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39 (6) The Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the
40 Department of Human Services;
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1 (7) The President and Chief Operating Officer of the
2 Hawaii Medical Service Association, or the President
3 and Chief Operating Officer's designee, who shall be
4 invited by the co-chairs of the working group;

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6 (8) The Market President, Hawaii Region, for Kaiser
7 Permanente, or the Market President's designee, who
8 shall be invited by the co-chairs of the working
9 group;

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11 (9) One representative from the Healthcare Association of
12 Hawaii, who shall be invited by the co-chairs of the
13 working group; and

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15 (10) One representative from the Hawaii Primary Care
16 Association, who shall be invited by the co-chairs of
17 the working group; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
20 to consider and follow the provisions of House Bill No. 1789,
21 Regular Session of 2026, and Senate Bill No. 3243, Regular
22 Session of 2026, regarding the values, principles, scope of
23 design of the Hawaii Health Plan, and general nature of the
24 system to be developed; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
27 Bureau is requested to assist in preparing any legislation
28 proposed by the working group; provided that the working group
29 shall provide a draft of any legislation to the Bureau no later
30 than October 15, 2026; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
33 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations for the
34 design of the Hawaii Health Plan, including any proposed
35 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
36 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group cease to
39 exist on June 30, 2027; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairs of



1 the Standing Committees of the Senate and House of
2 Representatives having primary jurisdiction over health;
3 Insurance Commissioner; Director of Labor and Industrial
4 Relations; Administrator of the State Health Planning and
5 Development Agency; Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of
6 the Department of Human Services; President and Chief Operating
7 Officer of the Hawaii Medical Service Association; Market
8 President, Hawaii Region, for Kaiser Permanente; President and
9 Chief Executive Officer of Healthcare Association of Hawaii; and
10 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association.

