

APR 5/14/03  
RECEIVED

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MAY 10 10 12 AM '03  
ADMIN & RESEARCH  
BUDGET & FINANCE

May 12, 2003

Mr. Sam Callejo  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund  
P.O. Box 150  
Honolulu, HI 96810

Dear Mr. Callejo:

I transmit herewith a copy of House Concurrent Resolution No. 151, HD 1, SD 1, which was adopted by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Mau-Shimizu".

Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM WORKING GROUP ON  
UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE.

1           WHEREAS, the cost of health care, long-term care, insurance  
2 premium costs, and prescription drug costs in Hawaii and the  
3 nation are escalating exponentially; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, we are fortunate to be a healthy state whose  
6 citizens live longer, yet it also means that we have a rapidly  
7 aging society requiring more health care; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, Hawaii spends almost \$5,000,000,000 on health  
10 care, or 12 percent of the gross state product; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, an increasing financial burden is placed on  
13 businesses, especially small businesses, because of the rapidly  
14 increasing costs of health care premiums; and  
15

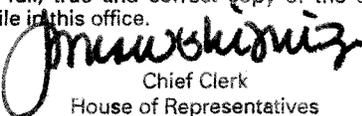
16           WHEREAS, the purpose of the Prepaid Health Care Act (PHCA)  
17 of 1974 is to provide health care coverage for most of Hawaii's  
18 citizens; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, although PHCA served its purpose at the time it  
21 was created and many years thereafter, other situations and  
22 issues have created a larger number of uninsured; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, costs are increasing not only for insurance  
25 coverage for employees of private-sector businesses, but also  
26 for public employees and retirees, who actually pay more out-of-  
27 pocket for health insurance coverage because the State of  
28 Hawaii, as an employer, is exempt from PHCA; and  
29

30           WHEREAS, while Medicaid and QUEST provide health coverage  
31 for some of the uninsured, coverage is usually minimal, and  
32 there is still a "gap group" that is neither insured nor  
33 eligible for Medicaid or QUEST; and

I do hereby certify that the within document  
is a full, true and correct copy of the original  
on file in this office.

  
Chief Clerk

House of Representatives  
State of Hawaii

1           WHEREAS, although health care costs are escalating rapidly,  
2 hospitals and nursing homes still suffer massive financial  
3 losses, in part because of inadequate reimbursement rates that  
4 do not even cover the actual cost of care; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, a decade ago, Hawaii led the nation in having the  
7 highest rate of insured individuals, but has since dropped to  
8 thirteenth, with over 100,000 uninsured individuals; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the President of  
11 the United States currently appear to be unable or unwilling to  
12 seriously address health care access issues; and  
13

14           WHEREAS, a solution needs to be provided now to prevent a  
15 further increase in the number of uninsured, and to prevent  
16 increased State Medicaid and other health care costs; now,  
17 therefore,  
18

19           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
20 Twenty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
21 Session of 2003, the Senate concurring, that an interim Working  
22 Group on Universal Health Care (Working Group) be formed to  
23 consider the feasibility of providing universal health care in  
24 the State; and  
25

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group be led by the  
27 Chair of the House Committee on Health and the Chair of the  
28 Senate Committee on Health; and  
29

30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Working  
31 Group shall be:  
32

33           Members of the following House of Representatives  
34 standing committees:  
35

- 36           (1) The Committee on Health;
- 37
- 38           (2) The Committee on Human Services;
- 39
- 40           (3) The Committee on Labor and Public Employment;
- 41
- 42           (4) The Committee on Consumer Protection and  
43 Commerce;  
44

1 Members of the following Senate standing committees:

- 2
- 3 (1) The Committee on Health;
- 4
- 5 (2) The Committee on Human Services;
- 6
- 7 (3) The Committee on Labor;
- 8
- 9 (4) The Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
10 and Housing;

11  
12 and

13  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group shall  
15 request input and assistance from representatives of  
16 government and private agencies including:

- 17
- 18 (1) The Insurance Commissioner or Commissioner's  
19 designee;
- 20
- 21 (2) Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund  
22 or Hawaii Public Employees Health Fund;
- 23
- 24 (3) Department of Labor and Industrial Relations;
- 25
- 26 (4) Hawaii Uninsured Project;
- 27
- 28 (5) Hawaii Medical Service Association;
- 29
- 30 (6) Kaiser Permanente;
- 31
- 32 (7) AlohaCare;
- 33
- 34 (8) Hawaii Government Employees Association;
- 35
- 36 (9) Hawaii State Teachers Association;
- 37
- 38 (10) ILWU Local 142;
- 39
- 40 (11) United Public Workers;
- 41
- 42 (12) Hawaii Primary Care Association;
- 43
- 44 (13) Hawaii Medical Association;

1  
2 (14) Hawaii Dental Association;

3  
4 (15) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in  
5 Hawaii;

6  
7 (16) National Federation of Independent Business;

8  
9 (17) Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;

10  
11 (18) American Association of Retired Persons - Hawaii  
12 Chapter;

13  
14 (19) Kokua Council; and

15  
16 (20) Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association;

17  
18 and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
21 to gather information, evaluate the findings of the Hawaii  
22 Uninsured Project, and provide possible solutions and proposed  
23 legislation on the feasibility of providing universal health  
24 care in the State; and

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
27 to look at other alternatives and options to the provision of  
28 universal health care coverage such as the establishment of  
29 medical savings accounts and the redesigning of PHCA; and

30  
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
32 to include, as a part of their study on the feasibility of  
33 providing universal health care to the citizens of this State, a  
34 review of the core health care coverage provided by PHCA along  
35 with estimated costs of such coverage based on current fees,  
36 along with suggestions on how the costs should be covered, as  
37 well as how such a program would be administered and by whom;  
38 and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group submit a  
41 report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed  
42 legislation, to the Governor and the Legislature no later than  
43 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2004;  
44 and

1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional  
4 delegation, the Governor, Chairs of the House Committees on  
5 Health, Human Services, Labor and Public Employment, and  
6 Consumer Protection and Commerce, Chairs of the Senate  
7 Committees on Health, Human Services, Labor, and Commerce,  
8 Consumer Protection and Housing, Director of Labor and  
9 Industrial Relations, president of the Hawaii Medical Service  
10 Association, President of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii Region, Chair  
11 of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund Board,  
12 Chair of the Hawaii Public Employees Health Fund Board,  
13 President of the Hawaii Government Employees Association,  
14 President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association, President of  
15 ILWU Local 142, President of the United Public Workers Union,  
16 Executive Director of the Hawaii Primary Care Association,  
17 Executive Director of the Hawaii Medical Association, President  
18 of the Hawaii Dental Association, Insurance Commissioner,  
19 President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association,  
20 President of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, President of  
21 AlohaCare, State Director of the National Federation of  
22 Independent Business, Director of the American Association of  
23 Retired Persons-Hawaii Chapter, Kokua Council, and the local  
24 representative of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
25 Services.