



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 2727 HD2 SD1 CD1

On July 8, 2008, House Bill No. 2727, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Health Insurance" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to create a temporary Autism Spectrum Disorder Benefits and Coverage Task Force.

Although I understand why this measure is being proposed, this bill is premature. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 196, which passed both the House and the Senate, requires the Auditor to submit a report on the impact of mandating coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for all policies and contracts, hospital and medical service plan contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health maintenance organization plans and contracts issued after December 31, 2008. House Bill No. 2727 appears to unnecessarily duplicate the request to the Auditor in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 196.

Furthermore, the proposed composition of the Task Force does not have the diversity of perspective provided by experts in the field, such as doctors or insurance analysts, necessary to facilitate thoughtful discussion on the subject matter.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 2727 to become law as Act 221, effective July 8, 2008, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE