



GOV. MSG. NO. 909

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

July 9, 2008

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

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

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. (a) There is established in the department of  
2 health for administrative purposes a temporary autism disorders  
3 spectrum benefits and coverage task force. The children with  
4 special health needs branch shall assist the temporary task  
5 force by providing a facilitator. The task force shall discuss  
6 and seek input on the problems faced by parents of children with  
7 autism and what can be done to ensure that proper health  
8 benefits and services are provided through public and private  
9 resources to address the special needs of children with autism,  
10 including providing services involving applied behavioral  
11 analysis techniques. In addition, the task force shall research  
12 health insurance coverage plans that cover autism spectrum  
13 disorders in other states and develop a plan of services that  
14 health insurers should be mandated to cover.

15           (b) The task force shall consist of nine members as  
16 follows:

17           (1) A member of the house of representatives appointed by  
18           the speaker of the house of representatives;



- 1 (2) A member of the senate appointed by the president of  
2 the senate;
- 3 (3) The superintendent of education or the  
4 superintendent's designee;
- 5 (4) The director of human services or the director's  
6 designee;
- 7 (5) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 8 (6) The insurance commissioner or the insurance  
9 commissioner's designee; and
- 10 (7) Three members appointed by the governor from a list  
11 submitted by the speaker of the house of  
12 representatives and president of the senate, with each  
13 member representing a different organization that  
14 represents children with autistic spectrum disorder.
- 15 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without  
16 compensation and shall receive no reimbursement for expenses.
- 17 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
18 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
20 the regular session of 2009.
- 21 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2009.





1 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008, and  
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2009.

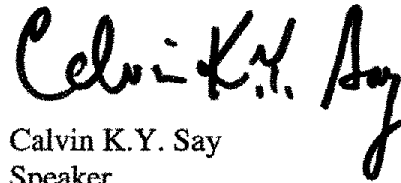


HB No. 2727, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 29, 2008  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008.



Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

H.B. No. 2727, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Date: April 29, 2008  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. ...', written over a horizontal line.

President of the Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. ...', written in a cursive style.

Clerk of the Senate