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Guests practice yoga at the Vinyasa, Vino and Chocolate event Friday evening at the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay. PHOTOS BY LAURA SHIMABUKU/WEST HAWAII TODAY

What could be better?

EVENT FEATURES YOGA,
WINE AND CHOCOLATE

BY LAURA SHIMABUKU
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Yoga enthusiasts were treated to a workout with a beautiful Kona sunset for a backdrop at the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay on Friday for an evening of Vinyasa, Vino and Chocolate. After an hour of the fluid Vinyasa Yoga under the direction of Alyssa Kratz, guests retreated to Ray's on the Bay for an evening of wine and chocolate.



Guests try the Chocolate Buttermilk Soup at the Vinyasa, Vino and Chocolate event Friday evening at the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay.

Bipartisan effort fights health law rule that could raise premiums

BY ROBERT PEAR
NYTIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress from both parties, as well as some employers, insurers and state insurance commissioners, are calling for changes in the Affordable Care Act to prevent premium increases that are expected to affect workers at many small and midsize companies next year.

Lawmakers see the potential for a rare bipartisan agreement on the issue, after five years in which Republicans have repeatedly tried to repeal the law and Democrats have blocked their efforts.

At issue is a provision of the health care law that expands the definition of a "small employer" to include companies with 51 to 100 employees, subjecting them to stringent insurance regulation starting Jan. 1. States have historically defined small employers as those with 50 or fewer employees.

Because many organizations with 51 to 100 employees will be reclassified as small employers, they will have to offer a package of "essential health benefits" specified by the health law — in some cases more generous than what they now offer. Insurers will no longer be allowed to set premiums for such groups based on their claims history, industry or size — factors now commonly considered.

The American Academy of