
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO INVESTIGATE METHODS OF
EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY END-OF-LIFE, PALLIATIVE CARE.

1 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Living and Dying with
2 Dignity (Blue Ribbon Panel) was formed by then-Governor Benjamin
3 J. Cayetano in late 1996 to consider the many issues involved in
4 death and dying and to suggest guidelines for public policy; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel investigated the true
7 meaning of "Death-with-Dignity" by exploring means for a
8 terminally ill person to die with comfort, care, and respect for
9 the patient and the family of the patient; and
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11 WHEREAS, in May 1998, the Blue Ribbon Panel issued its
12 final report, which included the unanimous recommendation that
13 hospice care be made more available and offered more expediently
14 to the dying; and
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16 WHEREAS, hospice care is a service that can be delivered at
17 home, in a freestanding unit operated by the hospice, in nursing
18 or care homes, or even in beds set aside in acute care hospitals
19 to provide quality end-of-life, palliative care; and
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21 WHEREAS, hospice care is a philosophy that accepts that an
22 illness has progressed to a terminal stage so that death cannot
23 be avoided even with aggressive medical treatment; and
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25 WHEREAS, the goal of hospice care is not to prolong life,
26 but to make dying as comfortable as possible for the person
27 dying and for family and friends through quality end-of-life,
28 palliative care; and



1 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel found that many of Hawaii's
2 health care providers believe that if pain management can be
3 improved and hospice care increased, few people would consider
4 physician-assisted death, which may be viewed as desirable when
5 pain is not controlled; and
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7 WHEREAS, in addition to increasing patient satisfaction,
8 quality end-of-life, palliative care almost always costs less
9 than most other forms of acute care at the end of life; and
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11 WHEREAS, it is important that a person diagnosed with a
12 terminal illness be afforded all available comfort and care
13 options as soon as possible to ensure a high quality of life
14 during the person's remaining time; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Insurance Commissioner
19 is urged to investigate methods of expanding access to quality
20 end-of-life, palliative care, including extending insurance
21 coverage for hospice care to persons who have been diagnosed as
22 having a life expectancy of two years or less; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Insurance Commissioner is
25 requested to explore other methods of making quality end-of-
26 life, palliative care available to all people in Hawaii
27 regardless of their health insurance coverage or lack thereof;
28 and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Insurance Commissioner is
31 requested to initiate discussion and dialogue between Hawaii's
32 medical service providers, including:
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- 34 (1) Hawaii Medical Services Association (HMSA);
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- 36 (2) Kaiser Permanente (Kaiser);
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- 38 (3) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH); and
- 39
- 40 (4) Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC),
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42 to determine the best ways to expand access to quality end-of-
43 life, palliative care; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Insurance
3 Commissioner, HMSA, Kaiser, HAH, and HHSC.
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OFFERED BY:

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