
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY
THE IMPACT OF DELAYS IN MEDICAID/QUEST ELIGIBILITY ON ACUTE
CARE AVAILABILITY AND HOSPITAL REIMBURSEMENTS FOR WAIT-
LISTED PATIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, hospital patients who are waiting for transfer to
2 long term care occupy acute care beds, creating unnecessary
3 shortages of beds for acute care, increasing uncompensated costs
4 for hospitals and maintaining them under levels of care that are
5 inappropriate to their needs; and

6
7 WHEREAS, one reason for the delay in moving patients out of
8 hospitals is that most long term care facilities require a
9 source of payment before accepting the transfer, and

10
11 WHEREAS, many wait-listed patients are eligible but not
12 enrolled in Medicaid/QUEST; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Medicaid/Quest is allowed up to 45 days to
15 determine eligibility but the amount of time required to reach
16 the decision is often extended; and

17
18 WHEREAS, hospitals receive no reimbursement from commercial
19 payers for patient wait-listed days and either receives partial
20 retroactive reimbursement from Medicaid, usually at rates
21 substantially below cost, or no reimbursement at all; and

22
23 WHEREAS, these unreimbursed costs impose a significant
24 financial burden on acute care hospitals throughout the state;
25 now, therefore

26
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2006, that the Departments of Health and Human Services are
30 requested to study the impact of delays in Medicaid/QUEST

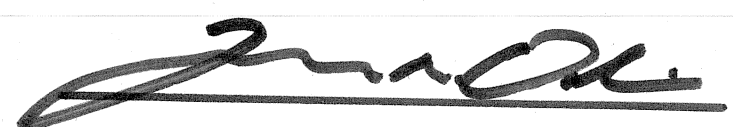
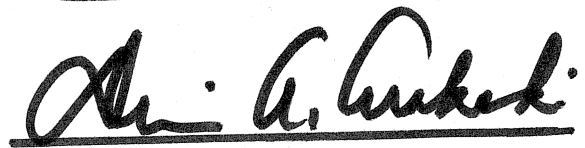
1 eligibility on acute care availability and hospital
2 reimbursements for wait-listed patients; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Health and
5 Human Services are requested to report their findings and
6 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
7 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the
10 Department of Human Services, the Healthcare Association of
11 Hawaii and the Hawaii Long Term Care Association.

12
13
14

OFFERED BY:



MAR 15 2006