
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE PHYSICIAN ON-CALL CRISIS.

1 WHEREAS, Americans assume that they will have access to
2 lifesaving emergency care when they need it, but the reality is
3 that there is a growing crisis in emergency care; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the American College of Emergency Physicians
6 (ACEP) studied the nation's emergency care and recently issued a
7 report entitled, "The National Report Card on the State of
8 Emergency Medicine," which concluded that the national emergency
9 health care system is in serious condition, and many states have
10 serious deficiencies; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the ACEP report determined that the causes of the
13 national emergency care crisis include the following:
14

- 15 (1) A record number of patients going to emergency
16 departments;
- 17
- 18 (2) A reduction in the capacity of the nation's emergency
19 systems;
- 20
- 21 (3) A significant loss of medical-surgical beds and
22 intensive care unit beds;
- 23
- 24 (4) Rising amounts of uncompensated care due to the
25 federal mandate to screen and stabilize all patients
26 regardless of their ability to pay;
- 27
- 28 (5) Reductions in payments from private insurance
29 companies, Medicare, and Medicaid; and
30
- 31 (6) Reductions in state health budgets;
- 32

33 and
34



1 WHEREAS, the ACEP report includes a comparison of all
2 states, and Hawaii ranked 34th in the nation, receiving a rating
3 of "C-"; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)
6 recently issued a report entitled, On-Call Crisis in Trauma
7 Care: Government Responses, which included the finding that
8 trauma centers across the nation have for many years been facing
9 a crisis securing physician specialists for emergency call; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the LRB report identified the following causes of
12 the on-call physician specialist shortage:
13

- 14 (1) The cost of care has increased, while payments to
15 physicians from health plans, Medicare, and Medicaid
16 have dramatically decreased;
17
- 18 (2) Many physician specialists have reduced or eliminated
19 emergency call in favor of a more predictable
20 lifestyle;
21
- 22 (3) There is a national shortage of physician specialists
23 in many areas critical for trauma coverage; and
24
- 25 (4) Malpractice liability insurance premiums are rising;
26

27 and
28

29 WHEREAS, the on-call physician crisis must be addressed in
30 order to ensure the integrity of emergency and trauma care in
31 Hawaii; now, therefore,
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Insurance
36 Commissioner is requested to convene a task force to examine
37 provider reimbursement versus cost of care issues as they relate
38 to the physician on-call crisis; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
41 representatives of health care organizations that have emergency
42 departments and health care insurance companies; and
43



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force gather relevant
2 information, discuss possible solutions, and develop
3 recommendations; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Insurance Commissioner
6 submit a report to the Legislature of the activities of the task
7 force, including findings, conclusions, and recommendations, no
8 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
9 Session of 2007; and
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
13 Insurance Commissioner, the Director of Health, the President of
14 the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and the Chief Executive
15 Officers of the Hawaii Medical Service Association, Kaiser
16 Permanente, Hawaii Management Alliance Association, University
17 Health Alliance, and Summerlin Life & Health Insurance Company.
18
19
20

OFFERED BY:

Rosalyn H. Baker
Elizabeth Chun Auland

