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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE ISSUES HOSPITALS FACE WITH REGARD TO  
WAIT LISTED PATIENTS IN HAWAII IN NEED OF LONG TERM MEDICAL  
CARE.

1           WHEREAS, wait listed patients in Hawaii needing long term  
2 care will stay and receive treatment at hospitals until a bed is  
3 available for them at a skilled nursing facility; and  
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5           WHEREAS, according to Hawaii Pacific Health, approximately  
6 one fourth of their wait listed long term care patients are from  
7 Oahu, another fourth are from the Pacific Islands, and up to one  
8 half are neighbor island patients who are transferred to one of  
9 Hawaii Pacific Health's hospitals on Oahu or Kauai for care; and  
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11           WHEREAS, long term care patients can spend several months  
12 occupying an acute care bed at a hospital while waiting for an  
13 available bed at a skilled nursing facility; and  
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15           WHEREAS, in the meantime, these hospitals bear the  
16 additional costs for caring for them, and hospitals are forced  
17 to offer their already scarce acute care beds while patients  
18 wait for an available space at a skilled nursing facility; and  
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20           WHEREAS, most skilled nursing facilities are unable to  
21 accommodate patients who are on dialysis, have a tracheotomy, or  
22 have mental health issues; thus, these patients are unable to be  
23 discharged from the hospital and must stay for an extended  
24 period of time; and  
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26           WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities on the neighbor islands  
27 are frequently at maximum capacity, which makes it difficult for  
28 patients receiving care on Oahu to transfer back to their home  
29 island for long term care; and  
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31           WHEREAS, the lack of beds available at skilled nursing  
32 facilities in Hawaii has caused patients, particularly those  
33 with mental health issues, to transfer to mainland facilities,



1 which takes these patients away from their families and a  
2 familiar environment; and  
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4 WHEREAS, moreover, hospitals are forced to incur the  
5 expenses for transferring a long term care patient to the  
6 mainland, including travel expenses, nurse care costs, and any  
7 additional fees to assist a patient's family member with making  
8 the necessary guardianship arrangements for the transfer; and  
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10 WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities will not accept  
11 patients until they have a source of payment; thus, hospitals  
12 must also bear their patients' health care costs while their  
13 applications for Medicaid or QUEST is being considered; and  
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15 WHEREAS, hospitals do not receive a full or sometimes any  
16 reimbursement from commercial payers for the patient's wait  
17 listed days that are spent in the hospital, which creates a  
18 growing unsustainable financial burden on acute care hospitals  
19 throughout the State; now, therefore,  
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
24 Reference Bureau conduct a study investigating the issues  
25 hospitals face with regard to wait listed patients using acute  
26 care beds who are there solely because they are in need of long  
27 term medical care; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
30 Bureau is requested to report findings and recommendations to  
31 the Legislature at least twenty days before the convening of the  
32 Regular Session of 2007; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of  
36 the Legislative Research Bureau, the Director of Health, the  
37 Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health, the Chief  
38 Executive Officer of the Queen's Medical Center, the Chief  
39 Executive Officer of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, the Chief  
40 Executive Officer of Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the Chief  
41 Executive Officer of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and the  
42 Director of the Hawaii Long Term Care Association.  
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