
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COOPERATION FROM THE LEGISLATURE AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
REGIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATION IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the delivery of health care is becoming an
2 increasingly complex process calling upon the coordination of
3 various caregivers; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is becoming vitally important for caregivers to
6 be able to securely and rapidly exchange information regarding a
7 particular patient or groups of patients in order to deliver
8 timely, effective, and efficient medical care; and
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10 WHEREAS, there are initiatives being undertaken both at the
11 state and federal level, across the United States, to develop
12 Regional Health Information Organizations, which will facilitate
13 the secure and rapid exchange of patient-identified information
14 across the broad spectrum of physicians, hospitals, and other
15 health care providers within a state and across state borders
16 when needed; and
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18 WHEREAS, there is increasing evidence that the development
19 of these information exchange systems will not only result in
20 better and more timely care, but also more cost-efficient and
21 error-free care; and
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23 WHEREAS, an information exchange system will greatly
24 benefit the people of the State of Hawaii, and greatly improve
25 the quality, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness of the medical
26 care they receive if hospitals, health plans, physicians, and
27 other health care providers are able to securely and rapidly
28 exchange information regarding the treatment rendered to a
29 particular patient or groups of patients; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange, Inc. is a
32 nonprofit corporation recently formed by key stakeholders in the
33 Hawaii health care community including representatives from
34 various hospitals, health insurers, physician organizations, and
35 other health care providers; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange, Inc. is
3 dedicated to the formation and operation of a health information
4 exchange system in the State of Hawaii, which would allow a
5 secure and rapid exchange of medical information; and
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7 WHEREAS, the support of the Legislature as well as the
8 Department of Health is vital to the success of the Hawaii
9 Health Information Exchange, Inc.'s effort to create a patient-
10 driven health information technology system, which will
11 accommodate the participation of all the important health care
12 stakeholders within the State of Hawaii, including but not
13 limited to hospitals, health insurers, physicians, laboratories,
14 pharmacies, employers, and nursing homes; and
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16 WHEREAS, moreover, the support from the Legislature and the
17 Department of Health will improve patient safety and quality of
18 care, reduce costs because of coordination of care and
19 elimination of duplicative tests and procedures, and enable
20 informed and accountable patients to participate in improving
21 their own health; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
25 that the Legislature support the efforts of the Hawaii Health
26 Information Exchange, Inc. in forming and operating a health
27 information exchange system, which will securely and rapidly
28 exchange medical information to improve the quality of medical
29 care delivered to the people of the State of Hawaii; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health
32 participate in the formation of a health information exchange
33 system by sending representatives to the meetings of the Hawaii
34 Health Information Exchange, Inc. and otherwise assist the
35 organization in carrying out its mission and purpose; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all licensed health insurers,
38 hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies, employers, nursing homes,
39 and physicians be urged to participate in the meetings and
40 activities of the Hawaii Health Information Exchange, Inc., and
41 to contribute financially and in-kind to the support and
42 development of the organization in furtherance of its charitable
43 mission; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Director of Health,
4 the President of the Hawaii Science and Technology Council, and
5 the President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

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