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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII TO EXAMINE THE  
PROBLEM OF PATIENTS IN ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS WAITLISTED FOR  
LONG-TERM CARE AND TO PROPOSE SOLUTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, many patients in acute care hospitals whose  
2 conditions have improved so that they may be transferred to  
3 long-term care will stay and receive treatment at hospitals  
4 because beds are not available for them at skilled nursing  
5 facilities; and

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7 WHEREAS, according to Hawaii Pacific Health, for example,  
8 approximately one fourth of their waitlisted long-term care  
9 patients are from Oahu, another one fourth are from the Pacific  
10 Islands, and up to one half are neighbor island patients who are  
11 transferred to one of Hawaii Pacific Health's hospitals on Oahu  
12 or Kauai for care; and

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14 WHEREAS, patients who should be receiving long term-care  
15 can spend several months occupying an acute care bed at a  
16 hospital while waiting for an available bed at a skilled nursing  
17 facility; and

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19 WHEREAS, in the meantime, these hospitals bear the  
20 additional costs for caring for these patients, and hospitals  
21 are forced to offer their already scarce acute care beds while  
22 patients wait for an available space at a skilled nursing  
23 facility; and

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25 WHEREAS, most skilled nursing facilities are unable to  
26 accommodate patients who are on dialysis, have a tracheotomy, or  
27 have mental health issues, therefore, these patients are unable  
28 to be discharged from the hospital and must stay for an extended  
29 period of time; and

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31 WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities on the neighbor islands  
32 are frequently at maximum capacity, which makes it difficult for  
33 patients receiving care on Oahu to transfer back to their home  
34 island for long-term care; and



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2 WHEREAS, the lack of beds available at skilled nursing  
3 facilities in Hawaii has caused patients, particularly those  
4 with mental health issues, to transfer to mainland facilities,  
5 which takes these patients away from their families and a  
6 familiar environment; and  
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8 WHEREAS, hospitals are forced to incur the expenses for  
9 transferring a long term-care patient to the mainland, including  
10 travel expenses, nurse care costs, and any additional fees to  
11 assist a patient's family member with making the necessary  
12 guardianship arrangements for the transfer; and  
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14 WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities will not accept  
15 patients until they have a source of payment and hospitals must  
16 also bear their patients' health-care costs while their  
17 applications for Medicaid or QUEST are being considered; and  
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19 WHEREAS, hospitals may receive only a partial payment, or  
20 sometimes no payment at all, from commercial payers for the  
21 patient's waitlisted days that are spent in the hospital,  
22 creating a growing unsustainable financial burden on acute care  
23 hospitals throughout the state; now, therefore,  
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
26 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
27 Session of 2007, that the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH)  
28 is requested to conduct a study of patients in acute care  
29 hospitals who are waitlisted for long-term care, and to propose  
30 solutions to the problem; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
33 Services and the Department of Health cooperate with HAH in the  
34 study; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HAH is requested to submit a  
37 report of findings and recommendations to the Legislature no  
38 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
39 of 2008; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of  
43 Human Services, Chief Executive Officer of HAH, Chief Executive  
44 Officer of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Chief Executive

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1 Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health, Chief Executive Officer of the  
2 Queen's Medical Center, Chief Executive Officer of Kaiser  
3 Permanente Hawaii, Director of the Hawaii Long Term Care  
4 Association, and President of the Hawaii Disability Rights  
5 Center.

