

MAR 14 2007

---

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

---

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 long  
3 term care will stay and receive treatment at hospitals because  
4 beds are not available for them at skilled nursing facilities;  
5 and  
6

7 WHEREAS, according to Hawaii Pacific Health, approximately  
8 one fourth of their waitlisted long term care patients are from  
9 Oahu, another fourth are from the Pacific Islands, and up to  
10 one-half are neighbor island patients who are transferred to one  
11 of Hawaii Pacific Health's hospitals on Oahu or Kauai for care;  
12 and  
13

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  
18

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

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

30 WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities on the neighbor islands  
31 are frequently at maximum capacity, which makes it difficult for



1 patients receiving care on Oahu to transfer back to their home  
2 island for long term care; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the lack of beds available at skilled nursing  
5 facilities in Hawaii has caused patients, particularly those  
6 with mental health issues, to transfer to mainland facilities,  
7 which takes these patients away from their families and a  
8 familiar environment; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, hospitals are forced to incur the expenses for  
11 transferring a long term care patient to the mainland, including  
12 travel expenses, nurse care costs, and any additional fees to  
13 assist a patient's family member with making the necessary  
14 guardianship arrangements for the transfer; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities will not accept  
17 patients until they have a source of payment; thus, hospitals  
18 must also bear their patients' health care costs while their  
19 applications for Medicaid or QUEST is being considered; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, hospitals do not receive a full payment, and  
22 sometimes no payment at all, from commercial payers for the  
23 patient's waitlisted days that are spent in the hospital,  
24 creating a growing unsustainable financial burden on acute care  
25 hospitals throughout the State; now, therefore,

26  
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Healthcare  
30 Association of Hawaii is requested to conduct a study of  
31 patients in acute care hospitals who are waitlisted for long  
32 term care, and to propose solutions to the problem; and

33  
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
35 Services and the Department of Health cooperate with the  
36 Healthcare Association of Hawaii in the study; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Healthcare Association of  
39 Hawaii is requested to submit a report of findings and  
40 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
41 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

42  
43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,



1 the Director of Human Services, the Chief Executive Officer of  
 2 the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the Chief Executive  
 3 Officer of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the Chief  
 4 Executive Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health, the Chief Executive  
 5 Officer of the Queen's Medical Center, the Chief Executive  
 6 Officer of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, and the Director of the  
 7 Hawaii Long Term Care Association.

OFFERED BY:

Hawai Eghh

Ermaie K. Orange  
Yvonne J.

Norman Sakamoto  
Bruce Kohli  
Anne Mercedes Ki  
Robert Dunn

David Y. Lee  
S. S. S.

Erzanne Chun Oakland  
Michelle  
Nike Gabbard

Will Enyo  
Rosaly H. Baker

Jina  
Annalyn. Stone  
Clarence K. Nicholas

R. D. D. J.

Uta H.  
Carol Fukushima  
Guy L. Davis

