
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AND FACILITATE A BLUE RIBBON PANEL TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF ALL OF HAWAII'S ACUTE CARE AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NECESSARY EXPANSION OF SUCH FACILITIES FOR THE STATE BETWEEN NOW AND THE YEAR 2020.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's health care system consists of a myriad
2 of services that must be coordinated and integrated to ensure
3 access to quality care at the appropriate level for all of
4 Hawaii's residents; and

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6 WHEREAS, a single user of health care often accesses
7 different providers that deliver different products and
8 services, and may transition from one level of care to another
9 over a period of time; and

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11 WHEREAS, acute care hospitals deliver care to the most
12 seriously ill patients incurring high costs due to staffing
13 needs, costs of technology that permeates hospitals in the form
14 of equipment and supplies, the high costs of medication, and
15 regulatory and quality requirements; and

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17 WHEREAS, patients who receive care at hospitals and recover
18 enough of their health so that they no longer require
19 hospitalization, but are still in need of services, should be
20 transferred out of the hospital to a provider that can
21 appropriately and safely care for their needs; and

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23 WHEREAS, such a transfer supports an improved quality of
24 life for the patient and sustains the integrity of the acute
25 care system by creating availability of bed-space for others who
26 may require hospitalization; and

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28 WHEREAS, a balanced flow of patient movement matches the
29 appropriate provider to the needs of the patient and better
30 manages the financing of health care; and

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1 WHEREAS, the provision of long-term care, either in a
2 facility or in a home- and community-based setting, is far less
3 costly than hospital care; and

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5 WHEREAS, unfortunately, due to unique and unusual
6 circumstances, Hawaii has a shortage of beds in nursing
7 facilities relative to its population; and

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9 WHEREAS, most of Hawaii's long-term care facilities, which
10 include skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities,
11 adult residential care homes, and foster family homes, are full
12 nearly all the time; and

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14 WHEREAS, placement in a long-term care facility is
15 especially difficult when a patient has a medically complex
16 condition that demands resources that are not available at many
17 long-term care facilities in Hawaii; and

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19 WHEREAS, as a result, many acute care hospital patients who
20 are ready for long-term care cannot be discharged and must wait
21 in the acute care hospital until space becomes available; and

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23 WHEREAS, the shortage of long-term care beds is an
24 undesirable situation from three perspectives:

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26 (1) The quality of life of the patient is diminished;
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28 (2) A patient in an acute care hospital who is waitlisted
29 for long-term care occupies a bed that may be needed
30 by someone else with an acute illness or injury; and
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32 (3) Hospital care is very expensive, so the waitlisted
33 patient contributes to higher costs in an acute care
34 hospital;

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36 and

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38 WHEREAS, to properly address the problem of the adequate
39 supply of acute care and long-term care facility space we must
40 first understand what is currently available; now, therefore,

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42 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
43 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
44 Session of 2008, that the Director of Health is requested to



1 convene and facilitate a blue ribbon panel to perform a
2 comprehensive inventory of all of Hawaii's acute care and long-
3 term care facilities and to make recommendations for necessary
4 expansion of such facilities for the state between now and the
5 year 2020; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of blue ribbon
8 panels should include:

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10 (1) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by
11 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

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13 (2) A member of the Senate appointed by the President of
14 the Senate;

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16 (3) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;

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18 (4) The Director of Human Services or the Director's
19 designee;

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21 (5) The Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine
22 (JABSOM) or the Dean's designee;

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24 (6) The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Hawaii Health
25 Systems Corporation (HHSC);

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27 (7) The CEO of The Queens Medical Center or a designee;

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29 (8) The President and CEO of Hawaii Pacific Health or a
30 designee;

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32 (9) The CEO of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii or a designee; and

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34 (10) CEO and President of the Health Care Association of
35 Hawaii (HAH);

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37 and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the blue ribbon panel submit a
3 report of its findings, and any proposed legislation, to the
4 legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
5 Regular Session of 2010; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to Governor, Director of Health,
9 Director of Human Services, Dean of JABSOM, CEO of HHSC, CEO of
10 Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, CEO of Queen's Medical Center,
11 President and CEO of Hawaii Pacific Health, and President and
12 CEO of HAH.

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OFFERED BY: Josh Green MD.

MAR 04 2008

