
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN
ELECTROCARDIOGRAM WIRELESS TRANSMISSION PROJECT TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, time is of the essence for heart attack victims
2 because irreversible or potentially fatal damage to the heart
3 can occur quickly; and
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5 WHEREAS, an estimated 1,200,000 individuals experience
6 heart attacks annually, resulting in 495,000 deaths; and
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8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that when a heart attack is
9 caused by a blood clot that blocks a victim's artery, clearing
10 the vessel within 90 minutes reduces the risk of death by 40
11 percent; and
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13 WHEREAS, hospitals in North Carolina and Arkansas have
14 taken steps to shorten these deadly delays by having paramedics
15 wirelessly transmit patients' electrocardiogram (EKG) data from
16 the field, or from ambulances, either directly to cardiologist
17 staff or to staff in waiting emergency rooms; and
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19 WHEREAS, under the wireless transmission system, paramedics
20 in the field who detect signs of a heart attack transmit
21 electrocardiogram readings by a wireless modem to a cardiologist
22 or an emergency room; and
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24 WHEREAS, this procedure can help the cardiologist or
25 emergency room staff mobilize the appropriate staff and
26 equipment prior to the victim's arrival at the emergency room;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services
30 Department (EMS) is currently developing a project that equips
31 ambulances and rapid response vehicles with such a wireless
32 transmission system to transmit EKG data to any hospital wishing
33 to participate in the project; and
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1 WHEREAS, EMS's EKG wireless transmission system project
2 should be closely studied to determine if it would be
3 advantageous to implement a similar project statewide; now,
4 therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, that the
8 Department of Health (DOH) is requested to establish an
9 Electrocardiogram Wireless Transmission Project Task Force (Task
10 Force) to track and study the progress of EMS's EKG wireless
11 transmission system project (Project); and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the Task Force
14 should be to review EMS's Project and data on costs,
15 implementation, required staff, and other information currently
16 gathered by EMS to evaluate the Project's potential for
17 expansion and improvement; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
20 review the Project's EKG wireless transmission system, wireless
21 modem to a cardiologist, and the overall benefit in reducing the
22 time elapsed for each patient from arrival at the hospital to
23 receiving appropriate treatment for conditions diagnosed using
24 the EKG wireless transmission system; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Task Force
27 should be as follows:
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- 29 (1) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by
30 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 32 (2) A member of the Senate appointed by the President of
33 the Senate;
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- 35 (3) The Director of EMS or the Director's designee;
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- 37 (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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- 39 (5) A board certified emergency room physician appointed
40 jointly by the Senate President and the Speaker of the
41 House of Representatives;
42
- 43 (6) The Chairperson of the Board of the American Heart
44 Association of Hawaii or the Chairperson's designee;



1
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
5 convene at least three meetings at the Hawaii State Capitol
6 prior to the 2009 Regular Session; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
10 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days
11 prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Session; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall cease to
14 exist on June 30, 2009; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
18 Director of the Honolulu's Emergency Medical Services
19 Department, and Chairperson of the Board of the American Heart
20 Association of Hawaii.

