
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES REGARDING
HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and
2 Prevention, every year healthcare-associated infections account
3 for almost two million infections in American hospitals and
4 ninety-nine thousand deaths; and

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6 WHEREAS, the cost of treating these hospital-acquired
7 infections is estimated to add \$27,500,000,000 to hospital
8 expenses each year; and

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10 WHEREAS, hospital-acquired infections include antibiotic
11 resistant superbugs, such as methicillin-resistant
12 staphylococcus aureus (commonly known as MRSA), a deadly
13 bacteria that is resistant to various antibiotics and may infect
14 the heart or lungs after entering the body and may cause death;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, in 2005, of the infected patients, the Centers for
18 Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 94,360 patients
19 developed serious MRSA infections and nearly nineteen thousand
20 of them died; and

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22 WHEREAS, as of 2007, about eighty-five per cent of all
23 invasive MRSA infections were associated with healthcare
24 delivery; and

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26 WHEREAS, a 2007 medical study conducted by the Association
27 for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology found
28 that Hawaii healthcare facilities have the highest rate of MRSA
29 colonization and infection in the nation, with a prevalence rate
30 that is twice the national average; and

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1 WHEREAS, a 2009 Pennsylvania report provides evidence that
 2 public reporting of infection rates may be effective in reducing
 3 hospital-acquired infections, showing an eight per cent
 4 reduction in the overall state infection rate when comparing two
 5 years in which identical data was collected; and

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 7 WHEREAS, as of 2008, approximately twenty-six states
 8 required the reporting of hospital-acquired infection rates; and
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10 WHEREAS, public reporting of hospital-acquired infection
 11 rates in Hawaii may motivate hospitals to improve their
 12 infection-prevention practices and allow meaningful evaluation
 13 of their infection control programs; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 16 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 17 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
 18 requested to establish reporting requirements for hospitals,
 19 medical facilities, and certain medical professionals regarding
 20 hospital-acquired infections; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 23 requested to report annually to the Legislature and the Governor
 24 regarding hospital-acquired infections and to post the report on
 25 its website; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: Marilyn B. Lee
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