
HOUSE 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
5

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
9

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
16

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
21

22 WHEREAS, as of 2007, about eighty-five per cent of all
23 invasive MRSA infections were associated with healthcare
24 delivery; and
25

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
31

32 WHEREAS, a 2009 Pennsylvania report provides evidence that
33 public reporting of infection rates may be effective in reducing
34 hospital-acquired infections, showing an eight per cent



1 reduction in the overall state infection rate when comparing two
2 years in which identical data was collected; and

3
4 WHEREAS, as of 2008, approximately twenty-six states
5 required the reporting of hospital-acquired infection rates; and

6
7 WHEREAS, public reporting of hospital-acquired infection
8 rates in Hawaii may motivate hospitals to improve their
9 infection-prevention practices and allow meaningful evaluation
10 of their infection control programs; now, therefore,

11
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2009, that the Department of Health is requested to establish
15 reporting requirements for hospitals, medical facilities, and
16 certain medical professionals regarding hospital-acquired
17 infections; and

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
20 requested to report annually to the Legislature and the Governor
21 regarding hospital-acquired infections and to post the report on
22 its website; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

26
27
28 OFFERED BY:

Marie B. Lee
Kal Nye
Sham & Co
Tom Brower

FEB 25 2009

