
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the widespread use of
2 electronic health records systems would contribute to greater
3 efficiency and cost savings in the practice of medicine in
4 Hawaii. In addition to more effective storage and transmission
5 of medical records and patient data, interoperable electronic
6 health record systems would contribute to greater efficiency and
7 savings in medical billing and claims, both for private and
8 government payors.

9 The legislature further finds that the medical records
10 systems and claims used by agencies within the department of
11 health, particularly the alcohol and drug abuse division, are
12 incompatible with the electronic data systems of many of their
13 behavioral health providers. This leads to providers having to
14 enter their electronic patient notes twice: once into systems
15 that are compatible with federal claims systems and again into
16 the State's outdated system. Many of the problems experienced
17 by health care providers would be remedied by directing the
18 department of health to upgrade to an electronic system that



1 meets the federal health data system standards for registration
2 and billing that are established by the Health Information
3 Privacy and Portability Act of 1996, also known as HIPAA.

4 The legislature also finds that President Obama's
5 administration has established electronic medical records
6 development as a cornerstone of national health care reform, and
7 made federal economic recovery and stimulus funds available for
8 projects that create health care savings by implementing
9 electronic medical data systems. In addition to efficiency
10 gains for state health agencies and health providers, a robust
11 health records information system could be part a national
12 health information network in which patient information,
13 stripped of personal identification, could be used for national
14 health research projects, impartial assessments of drugs'
15 effectiveness, and other data-mining possibilities.

16 The purpose of this Act is to require agencies within the
17 department of health that administer mental health, mental
18 illness, drug addiction, and alcoholism treatment to implement
19 HIPAA-compliant electronic patient registration and billing
20 systems.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§334- Electronic health records. (a) By no later than
5 _____ , the department shall implement electronic health
6 records systems for the transmission of patient health
7 information and medical data between the department and persons
8 that provide services or treatment pursuant to this chapter.

9 Electronic health records systems shall:

- 10 (1) Meet recognized interoperability standards for patient
11 registration and billing;
12 (2) Comply with standards and formats established by the
13 Health Information Privacy and Portability Act of
14 1996; and
15 (3) Recognize the validity of electronic signatures,
16 including biometric signatures.

17 (b) For the purposes of this section, "interoperability"
18 means the ability to communicate and exchange data accurately,
19 effectively, securely, and consistently with different
20 information technology systems, software applications, and
21 networks in various settings, and exchange data so that the
22 clinical or operational purpose and meaning of the patient



1 health information and medical data are preserved and
2 unaltered."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Electronic Health Records

Description:

Requires agencies within the department of health that administer mental health, mental illness, drug addiction, and alcoholism treatment to implement HIPAA-compliant electronic health records systems.

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