
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.

1 WHEREAS, respiratory therapists, otherwise known as
2 respiratory care practitioners, work under the medical direction
3 of physicians and specialize in the evaluation, treatment, and
4 care of people with breathing disorders and work with a wide
5 variety of patients who suffer from conditions resulting from
6 asthma, emphysema, heart failure, stroke, drowning, shock, and
7 other causes; and
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9 WHEREAS, under the federal Medicare part B program, the
10 physician has a major role in determining utilization of health
11 services furnished by providers, deciding upon admissions,
12 orders tests, drugs, and treatments, and determining the length
13 of stay; and
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15 WHEREAS, federal Medicare part B conditions Medicare
16 payment upon a physician's certification of the necessity of a
17 provider's services and, in some instances, recertification of
18 the continued need for those services; and
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20 WHEREAS, Medicare patients purportedly have difficulty
21 gaining access to respiratory therapists working outside of a
22 hospital setting because Medicare requires health care providers
23 to be state-licensed and not all states currently license
24 respiratory therapists, Hawaii being one of only two states that
25 do not; and
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27 WHEREAS, efforts within the State to regulate the
28 profession have been unsuccessful, and the State Auditor has
29 consistently maintained that regulation of the profession is
30 unwarranted because sufficient protections already exist and
31 regulation would be costly; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2010, that Hawaii's congressional delegation is requested to
36 support legislation that directly recognizes respiratory



1 therapists as health care providers in the Medicare part B
2 program; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
6 congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: _____



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