

MAR 04 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A HEALTH CARE REFORM TASK FORCE TO
EVALUATE METHODS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY, SAFETY,
EFFICIENCY, AND COST OF HAWAII'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, TO
REDUCE MEDICAL ERRORS AND INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY, TO SEEK
SOLUTIONS TO ELIMINATE DOCTOR SHORTAGES, AND TO ADDRESS THE
ROLE AND IMPACT OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN COMPENSATING VICTIMS
INJURED BECAUSE OF MEDICAL ERRORS.

1 WHEREAS, improving the quality, safety, efficiency, and
2 cost of medical care provided by Hawaii's health care system is
3 universally regarded as a primary goal of health care reform;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's health care system has been perceived to
7 be weak in attracting and retaining physicians to practice in
8 Hawaii, particularly in rural areas; and

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10 WHEREAS, various factors have been identified over the
11 years as contributing to this perceived weakness, including the
12 adequacy of reimbursements for services provided, the cost of
13 malpractice insurance premiums, particularly for certain medical
14 specialties, and the need to practice medicine defensively; and

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16 WHEREAS, previous efforts at piecemeal reform of the health
17 care system have been largely unsuccessful in improving the
18 quality, safety, efficiency and, cost of medical care in Hawaii;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, improving the health care system requires analysis
22 and evaluation of the system as a whole to identify and improve
23 those factors that actually contribute to identifiable
24 weaknesses; and

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26 WHEREAS, it is time to adopt a new approach to reforming
27 Hawaii's health care system that seeks to examine the core



1 issues that contribute to system weaknesses by putting to work a
2 coalition of interested parties to develop new approaches to
3 reforming the health care system; and
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5 WHEREAS, the primary objective of such a coalition is to
6 bring stakeholders in Hawaii to a neutral forum to assist in
7 developing new policies and laws to strengthen the health care
8 system through a factually based consensus-building process,
9 while emphasizing that health care system reform must strengthen
10 linkages between accountability and improving the quality of
11 patient care and safety; and
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13 WHEREAS, it is necessary to evaluate methods to reduce
14 medical errors and increase patient safety, seek solutions to
15 eliminate doctor shortages, address the role and impact of the
16 legal system in compensating victims injured because of medical
17 errors, and improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and cost of
18 Hawaii's health care system; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
22 House of Representatives concurring, requesting the President of
23 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to
24 convene a health care reform task force, to be chaired by the
25 Chairpersons of the Senate and House Committees on Health, to
26 evaluate methods to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and
27 cost of Hawaii's health care system, to reduce medical errors
28 and increase patient safety, to seek solutions to eliminate
29 doctor shortages, and to address the role and impact of the
30 legal system in compensating victims injured because of medical
31 errors; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
34 include representation from the following:
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- 36 (1) Members of the Senate and the House of
37 Representatives, to be appointed by the President of
38 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
39 Representatives, respectively;
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41 (2) Department of Health;
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43 (3) Department of the Attorney General;
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- 1 (4) William S. Richardson School of Law of the University
- 2 of Hawaii at Manoa;
- 3
- 4 (5) John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of
- 5 Hawaii at Manoa;
- 6
- 7 (6) Hawaii Insurance Commissioner;
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- 9 (7) Healthcare Association of Hawaii;
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- 11 (8) Hawaii Medical Association;
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- 13 (9) Hawaii Association for Justice;
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- 15 (10) Attorneys licensed to practice in the State;
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- 17 (11) Consumer advocates;
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- 19 (12) Health care providers; and
- 20
- 21 (13) Hawaii medical malpractice insurers; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
24 requested to provide administrative support for the task force;
25 and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
28 submit a report of findings and recommendations, including any
29 necessary proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior
30 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

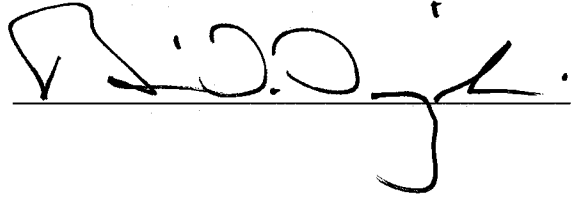
31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
34 President of the Senate, the Speaker of House of
35 Representatives, the Director of Health, the Attorney General,
36 the Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law, the Dean of
37 the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Insurance
38 Commissioner, the President of the Healthcare Association of
39 Hawaii, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Medical



S.C.R. NO. 146

1 Association, and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of
2 the Hawaii Association for Justice.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. O'Connell", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.