
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A HAWAII MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION TO
DEVELOP A UNIFIED STATE MENTAL HEALTH DELIVERY SERVICE.

1 WHEREAS, public mental health services exist and are
2 provided throughout the State of Hawaii; and

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4 WHEREAS, these services are delivered by many different
5 departments and agencies in Hawaii; and

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7 WHEREAS, consumers and families often experience delays,
8 confusion, and frustration with respect to how to receive care;
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11 WHEREAS, the lack of outreach to people with mental health
12 problems coupled with the absence of preventive and early
13 intervention services, exacerbates mental health problems, often
14 leading to devastating personal and societal consequences; and

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16 WHEREAS, the delivery of mental health services requires a
17 highly specialized, professional workforce with adequate mental
18 health-specific recruitment and retention policies and highly
19 specialized contracting, procurement, and contract oversight;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, the creation of an oversight body would help
23 foster a more unified mental health system to ensure greater
24 public access to, and an equitable distribution of, mental
25 health services throughout the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that a Hawaii Mental Health
30 Commission is requested to be established and charged with the
31 responsibility of developing a unified state mental health
32 delivery service across the State of Hawaii; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certain authority, duties,
2 responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Department of Health,
3 with respect to mental health, mental illness, drug addiction,
4 and alcoholism should be transferred to the Hawaii Mental Health
5 Commission to better achieve the goal of unifying delivery of
6 Hawaii's mental health services; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional
10 Delegation, the Governor, Director of Health, Mayors of the
11 respective Counties, Executive Director of Mental Health America
12 of Hawai'i, Branch Director of Mental Health America of Hawai'i -
13 Maui County Branch, the Community Children's Councils of Hawaii,
14 and the Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental
15 Illness Hawai'i.

