
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE
FOR USE OF THE LIFE BED INTELLIGENT MEDICAL VIGILANCE
SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, thousands of patients die unnecessarily each year
2 in hospitals from unexpected accidents and errors that include
3 insufficient staffing and ineffective systems in place to
4 identify acute care hospital medical-surgical patients in
5 distress; and

6 WHEREAS, each year approximately two hundred thousand people
7 die in hospitals in the United States from preventable errors
8 and mistakes; nearly twenty per cent of those deaths occur from
9 failure-to-rescue; and

10 WHEREAS, a Patient's Right to Safety is an emerging legal
11 entitlement and national standard-of-care for every acute care
12 hospital patient; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust
15 Fund conducted a two-year pilot project at the Queens Medical
16 Center using the Intelligent Medical Vigilance technology and
17 found a thirty-five per cent return on investment when a
18 reimbursement of \$18.00 per day, per bed, was paid; and

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20 WHEREAS, in the same pilot project, the Hawaii Employer-
21 Union Health Benefits Trust also found an 18.5 per cent
22 reduction of intensive care unit transfers and a forty-one per
23 cent reduction of fall rates on the medical surgical ward; and

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25 WHEREAS, the medical-surgical units and nursing stations of
26 a typical acute care hospital are where most patients receive
27 non-critical care, generally involving regularly scheduled
28 nursing rounds every four to eight hours; however, acute or



1 unexpected clinical events may go unnoticed for critical minutes
2 or hours until the next visit by a physician or nurse; and

3 WHEREAS, although rapid response teams are being promoted
4 as a solution to address acute clinical events, there are no
5 systems focused on the medical-surgical ward of the acute care
6 hospital, where nearly seventy-five per cent of patients
7 typically receive care, to identify and track patients in
8 distress; and

9 WHEREAS, technology solutions have been advocated to augment
10 patient safety on the medical-surgical wards of acute care
11 hospitals; and

12 WHEREAS, an automated early alert system called the LIFELED
13 Intelligent Medical Vigilance System or LIFELED, identifies at-
14 risk patients with an invisible, non-contact "Star Trek-like"
15 device that provides accurate and continuous observations of
16 heart and respiratory rates -- the two most critical vital signs
17 -- while the patient is in bed, and notifies nursing staff
18 immediately upon detecting a life-threatening condition; and

19 WHEREAS, LIFELED also detects a patient's unauthorized bed
20 exit, a leading cause of injurious and expensive patient falls;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, LIFELED has been developed, tested, and validated
23 in clinical settings and has received United States Food and
24 Drug Administration authorization specifically for medical-
25 surgical applications in acute care hospitals; and

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27 WHEREAS, LIFELED provides non-contact physiological
28 measurements, eliminating the need for cumbersome direct patient
29 connections, such as electrodes, cuffs, or cannulae, immediately
30 notifying nursing personnel of important information for at-risk
31 patients, which allows proactive response before an unexpected
32 event becomes serious or fatal; and

33 WHEREAS, LIFELED enables more efficient use of resources
34 and staff, permitting nursing staff to be aware of, and respond
35 to, precipitous patient deterioration. As a virtual additional
36 set of eyes, LIFELED monitors a patient constantly and calls the
37 nurses for help only if the patient is at serious risk; and



1 WHEREAS, this critical capability will enable LIFEED to
2 become a standard-of-care for medical-surgical units in acute
3 care hospitals; and
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5 WHEREAS, because of the absence of health insurance coverage
6 for the use of LIFEED, many hospitals may be reluctant to
7 provide LIFEED to their patients; and
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9 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
10 that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health
11 insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
12 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
13 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
14 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed
15 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
16 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
17 the proposed mandated coverage"; and
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19 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
20 provides that "[t]he concurrent resolutions shall designate a
21 specific legislative bill that:
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- 23 (1) Has been introduced in the legislature; and
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- 25 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:
26
- 27 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
28 that would be covered;
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- 30 (B) Extent of the coverage;
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- 32 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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- 34 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
- 35
- 36 (E) Standards of care.
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38 For purposes of this part, mandated health insurance coverage
39 shall not include mandated optionals"; and
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41 WHEREAS, section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
42 specifies the minimum information required for assessing the
43 social and financial impact of the proposed health coverage
44 mandate in the Auditor's report; and



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WHEREAS, H.B. No. 854 (2011) mandates coverage of the use of the LIFEVED Intelligent Medical Vigilance System for all policies and contracts, hospital and medical service plan contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health maintenance organization plans and contracts issued on or after December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health insurance coverage for use of the LIFEVED Intelligent Medical Vigilance System as provided in H.B. No. 854 (2011), would substantially reduce illnesses and injuries and assist in the maintenance of good health for the people of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the social and financial impacts of mandating coverage of the use of the LIFEVED Intelligent Medical Vigilance System for all policies and contracts, hospital and medical service plan contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health maintenance organization plans and contracts issued on or after December 31, 2011, as provided in H.B. No. 854 (2011); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature, including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and to the Insurance Commissioner, who in turn is requested to transmit copies to each insurer in the State that issues health insurance policies.

OFFERED BY: Calvin K. Aoy