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# HOUSE 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;  
9 and

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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, that a Hawaii Mental Health Commission is requested to  
30 be established and charged with the responsibility of developing  
31 a unified state mental health delivery service across the State  
32 of Hawaii; and

33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certain authority, duties,  
34 responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Department of Health,  
35 with respect to mental health, mental illness, drug addiction,



1 and alcoholism should be transferred to the Hawaii Mental Health  
2 Commission to better achieve the goal of unifying delivery of  
3 Hawaii's mental health services; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional Delegation,  
7 the Governor, Director of Health, Mayors of the respective  
8 Counties, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Hawai'i,  
9 Branch Director of Mental Health America of Hawai'i - Maui County  
10 Branch, the Community Children's Councils of Hawaii, and the  
11 Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness  
12 Hawai'i.

