
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii has
2 established a patient safety and quality committee whose mission
3 is to improve the quality of health care delivered by the full
4 range of provider organizations represented by Healthcare
5 Association of Hawaii members. The committee, which includes
6 representatives of hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies,
7 and hospices, would like to examine medical cases that apply to
8 various types of provider organizations. However, to ensure
9 full and free discussion, information about the cases must be
10 protected from its potential use in medical malpractice
11 lawsuits.

12 The importance of protecting peer review and quality
13 assurance of health care is recognized in Hawaii by statute in
14 section 624-25.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which provides that
15 such proceedings and records shall not be subject to discovery.
16 The intent of this Act is to encourage robust discussion that
17 leads to changes in health care policies, procedures, or
18 practices. The absence of these protections would limit



1 discussion and therefore limit improvements in the quality of
2 health care.

3 Until recently, this protection was restricted to
4 committees created by individual health care facilities.
5 However, Act 133, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, extended
6 protection to multidisciplinary quality assurance committees
7 convened and conducted by the department of health to monitor,
8 improve, and evaluate emergency and trauma systems.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish that the
10 proceedings and records of interdisciplinary quality assurance
11 committees composed of members from various health care
12 organizations have similar protections as those committees
13 formed by hospitals, health maintenance organizations, and
14 statewide trauma care systems.

15 SECTION 2. Section 624-25.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending the definition of "quality assurance
17 committee" to read as follows:

18 "Quality assurance committee" means [~~an~~]:

19 (1) An interdisciplinary committee established by the
20 board of trustees or administrative staff of a
21 licensed hospital, clinic, long-term care facility,
22 skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility,



1 home care agency, hospice, health maintenance
2 organization, preferred provider organization,
3 preferred provider network providing medical, dental,
4 or optometric care, or an authorized state agency
5 whose function is to monitor and evaluate patient
6 care[-] to identify, study, and correct deficiencies
7 in the health care delivery system [~~to reduce~~], with a
8 goal of reducing the risk of harm to patients [and
9 improve], improving patient safety, or otherwise
10 [~~improve~~] improving the quality of care delivered to
11 patients[-]; or

12 (2) An interdisciplinary committee composed of
13 representatives of organizations described in
14 paragraph (1) that is established collectively by the
15 boards of trustees or administrative staff of these
16 organizations, and whose function is to monitor and
17 evaluate patient care to identify, study, and correct
18 deficiencies in the health care delivery system, with
19 a goal of reducing the risk of harm to patients,
20 improving patient safety, or otherwise improving the
21 quality of care delivered to patients."



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Quality Assurance Committee; Health Care; Peer Review
Protections

Description:

Expands definition of "quality assurance committee" to include interdisciplinary quality assurance committees composed of members from various health care organizations. (HB597 CD1)

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