

MAR 16 2011

SENATE 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;
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 health
25 services throughout the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the
29 House of Representatives 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
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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 in order to better achieve the goal of unifying
6 delivery of 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, the Director of Health, the Mayors of
11 the respective counties of the State of Hawaii, Mental Health
12 America of Hawai'i, Mental Health America of Hawai'i - Maui
13 County Branch, the Community Children's Councils of Hawaii, and
14 the National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawai'i.

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