

MAR 16 2011

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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,  
29 that a Hawaii Mental Health Commission is requested to be  
30 established and charged with the responsibility of developing a  
31 unified state mental health delivery service across the State of  
32 Hawaii; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certain authority, duties,  
35 responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Department of Health,  
36 with respect to mental health, mental illness, drug addiction,



1 and alcoholism should be transferred to the Hawaii Mental Health  
2 Commission in order to better achieve the goal of unifying  
3 delivery of 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, the Director of Health, the Mayors of the  
8 respective counties of the State of Hawaii, Mental Health  
9 America of Hawai'i, Mental Health America of Hawai'i - Maui  
10 County Branch, the Community Children's Councils of Hawaii, and  
11 the National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawai'i.  
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OFFERED BY: Thomane Chun Oakland  
J.L.M.

