
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO IMPLEMENT
THE COLLABORATION OF COMMUNITY HOSPITALS WITH COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTERS, AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO INTEGRATE CERTAIN
RURAL HOSPITALS WITH FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.

1 WHEREAS, rural people and rural communities in Hawaii are
2 faced with many of the same health care issues and challenges as
3 the rest of the nation, including exploding health care costs,
4 large numbers of uninsured and underinsured persons, and an
5 overextended health care structure; and

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7 WHEREAS, many rural hospitals in Hawaii have financial
8 margins too narrow or too low to support investments in critical
9 plant and technological upgrades, and Medicaid and Medicare
10 reimbursement rates remain generally below the actual costs of
11 services provided, thus stressing providers that depend on
12 reimbursements from these public programs; and

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14 WHEREAS, as stated in the United States Department of
15 Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services
16 Administration's policy, the goal of collaboration is to use the
17 strengths of all involved organizations to best meet the overall
18 health care needs of an area's underserved population; and

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20 WHEREAS, section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
21 states that:

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23 "Each regional system board and each community hospital
24 under the jurisdiction of the corporation shall collaborate
25 with community health centers within their respective
26 geographic jurisdictions to maximize funding from the state
27 and federal governments to:

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- 1 (1) Maximize reimbursement for health care services
- 2 provided;
- 3 (2) Acquire funds for capital investment;
- 4
- 5 (3) Provide expanded hours of service; and
- 6
- 7 (4) Ensure the provision of the appropriate level of care
- 8 to the community served by each community health
- 9 center";

10 and

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12 WHEREAS, collaboration between community hospitals and

13 community health centers will help rural communities in Hawaii

14 improve and expand access to health care, encourage continued

15 partnering with other organizations to expand and improve access

16 to culturally-competent, quality health care, and ensure that

17 services are appropriately available to rural patients,

18 including primary, preventive, and enabling services; and

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20 WHEREAS, there are 23 hospitals in Hawaii, 13 of which are

21 located in rural areas, and there are two rural health clinics

22 and 13 federally-qualified health centers that provide services

23 at 69 sites in Hawaii; and

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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a robust network of federally-qualified

26 health centers that provide quality health care to more than

27 100,000 uninsured persons, and these health centers remove

28 barriers to care, including services that help their patients

29 access health care, such as transportation, case management, and

30 health education, and tailor their services to fit the special

31 needs and priorities of their communities; and

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33 WHEREAS, integrating certain rural hospitals into

34 federally-qualified health centers would expand the focus on

35 primary care and prevention and capture the cost-based

36 reimbursement for all services provided to Medicaid patients, as

37 well as provide free malpractice coverage under the Federal Tort

38 Claims Act; and

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40 WHEREAS, a plan to integrate certain rural hospitals,

41 including Kohala Hospital, Hale Hoola Hamakua, Kau Hospital,

42 Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital at the West Kauai Medical

43 Center, Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital, Kula Hospital, and

44 Lanai Community Hospital, into federally-qualified health



1 centers within their respective geographic jurisdictions needs
2 to be developed to design a more cost effective emergent care
3 plan for all residents in rural settings for all islands; now,
4 therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2012, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Health Systems
9 Corporation is requested to implement the provisions of section
10 323F-25, HRS, regarding the collaboration of community hospitals
11 with community health centers within their respective geographic
12 jurisdictions; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
15 Corporation is requested to develop a plan for the integration
16 of certain rural hospitals, including Kohala Hospital, Hale
17 Hoola Hamakua, Kau Hospital, Kauai Veterans Hospital at the West
18 Kauai Medical Center, Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital, Kula
19 Hospital; and Lanai Community Hospital, into federally-qualified
20 health centers, pursuant to section 323F-25, HRS; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
23 Corporation is requested to report on its progress in
24 implementing section 323F-25, HRS, regarding the collaboration
25 of community hospitals with community health centers and submit
26 its plan for the integration of certain hospitals into
27 federally-qualified health centers to the legislature not later
28 than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
29 2013; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
33 Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health
34 Systems Corporation, and Chairperson of the Hawaii Health
35 Authority.
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OFFERED BY: 

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