
HOUSE 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:

- 28
29 (1) Maximize reimbursement for health care services
30 provided;



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

8 and

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10 WHEREAS, collaboration between community hospitals and
11 community health centers will help rural communities in Hawaii
12 improve and expand access to health care, encourage continued
13 partnering with other organizations to expand and improve access
14 to culturally-competent, quality health care, and ensure that
15 services are appropriately available to rural patients,
16 including primary, preventive, and enabling services; and

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18 WHEREAS, there are 23 hospitals in Hawaii, 13 of which are
19 located in rural areas, and there are two rural health clinics
20 and 13 federally-qualified health centers that provide services
21 at 69 sites in Hawaii; and

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23 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a robust network of federally-qualified
24 health centers that provide quality health care to more than
25 100,000 uninsured persons, and these health centers remove
26 barriers to care, including services that help their patients
27 access health care, such as transportation, case management, and
28 health education, and tailor their services to fit the special
29 needs and priorities of their communities; and

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31 WHEREAS, integrating certain rural hospitals into
32 federally-qualified health centers would expand the focus on
33 primary care and prevention and capture the cost-based
34 reimbursement for all services provided to Medicaid patients, as
35 well as provide free malpractice coverage under the Federal Tort
36 Claims Act; and

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38 WHEREAS, a plan to integrate certain rural hospitals,
39 including Kohala Hospital, Hale Hoola Hamakua, Kau Hospital,
40 Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital at the West Kauai Medical
41 Center, Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital, Kula Hospital, and



1 Lanai Community Hospital, into federally-qualified health
2 centers within their respective geographic jurisdictions needs
3 to be developed to design a more cost effective emergent care
4 plan for all residents in rural settings for all islands; now,
5 therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2012, that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested
10 to implement the provisions of section 323F-25, HRS, regarding
11 the collaboration of community hospitals with community health
12 centers within their respective geographic 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
33 Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and
34 Chairperson of the Hawaii Health Authority.

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OFFERED BY: 

FEB 17 2012

