

MAR 14 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO FACILITATE
COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AND COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTERS AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO INTEGRATE CERTAIN
RURAL HOSPITALS WITH FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.

1 WHEREAS, people and communities in rural areas of Hawaii
2 are faced with many of the same health care issues and
3 challenges confronting the rest of the nation, such as
4 increasing health care costs, large numbers of uninsured and
5 underinsured, and an overextended health care structure; and
6

7 WHEREAS, many rural hospitals in Hawaii face financial
8 margins too narrow or too low to support investments in critical
9 plan and technological upgrades; and
10

11 WHEREAS, Hawaii's Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates
12 remain below actual costs of services provided, thus stressing
13 providers that depend on public program reimbursements; and
14

15 WHEREAS, as stated in section V of the Policy Information
16 Notice 2007-2009 for the Health Resources and Services
17 Administration, "the goal of collaboration is to utilize the
18 strengths of all involved organizations to best meet the overall
19 needs of the area's underserved population"; and
20

21 WHEREAS, section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires
22 each regional system board and each hospital under the
23 jurisdiction of the corporation to collaborate with community
24 health centers within their respective geographic jurisdiction
25 to maximize funding from the state and federal governments to
26 maximize reimbursement for health care services provided; and
27

28 WHEREAS, section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
29 requires each regional system board and each hospital to
30 collaborate with community health centers to maximize funding
31 acquired for capital investments; and
32

33 WHEREAS, section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
34 requires each regional system board and each hospital to



1 collaborate with community health centers to maximize funding
2 for expanded hours of service; and

3
4 WHEREAS, section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, further
5 requires each regional system board and each hospital to
6 collaborate with community health centers to maximize funding to
7 ensure the provision of the appropriate level of care to the
8 community served by each community health center; and

9
10 WHEREAS, collaboration of community hospitals with
11 community health centers will help rural communities in Hawaii
12 move toward the improvement and expansion of access to health
13 care and will also encourage continuation of partnering with
14 other organizations in order to expand and improve access to
15 culturally competent, quality health care; and

16
17 WHEREAS, collaboration will also ensure that services,
18 including primary, preventative, and enabling services, are
19 appropriately available to rural patients; and

20
21 WHEREAS, there are twenty-seven hospitals in Hawaii,
22 thirteen of which are located in rural areas; and

23
24 WHEREAS, there are two rural health clinics and thirteen
25 Federally Qualified Health Centers that provide services at
26 sixty-nine sites in the State of Hawaii; and

27
28 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a robust network of Federally Qualified
29 Health Centers that provide quality health care to more than one
30 hundred thousand uninsured persons; and

31
32 WHEREAS, these health centers remove barriers to care and
33 offer services that help their patients access health care,
34 including transportation, case management, and health education;
35 and

36
37 WHEREAS, these health centers tailor their services to fit
38 the special needs and priorities of their communities; and

39
40 WHEREAS, integrating certain rural hospitals with Federally
41 Qualified Health Centers would expand the focus on primary care
42 and prevention and capture the cost-based reimbursement for all
43 services provided to Medicaid patients; and

44



1 WHEREAS, such integration will also provide free
2 malpractice coverage under the Federal Tort Claims Act; and

3
4 WHEREAS, a plan to integrate certain rural hospitals,
5 including Kohala Hospital, Hale Hoola Hamakua, Kau Hospital,
6 West Kauai Medical Center, Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital,
7 Kula Hospital, and Lanai Community Hospital, into Federally
8 Qualified Health Centers within their respective geographic
9 jurisdictions needs to be developed in order to design a more
10 cost effective, emergent care plan for all residents of Hawaii
11 in rural settings; now, therefore,

12
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,
15 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested to
16 facilitate the collaboration between community hospitals and
17 community health centers as set forth in section 323F-25, Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
21 Corporation is requested to develop a plan for the integration
22 of certain rural hospitals, including Kohala Hospital, Hale
23 Hoola Hamakua, Kau Hospital, West Kauai Medical Center, Samuel
24 Mahelona Memorial Hospital, Kula Hospital, and Lanai Community
25 Hospital, with Federally Qualified Health Centers; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
28 Corporation is requested to report its progress on facilitating
29 the collaboration of community hospitals and community health
30 centers in accordance with section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised
31 Statutes, and to submit a plan for the integration of certain
32 rural hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers to the
33 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
34 the Regular Session of 2013; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Board of
38 Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and the
39 Hawaii Health Authority.

40
41
42 OFFERED BY: *JahD*



S.R. NO. 67

Francis Chen Cleland

Ally

Clarence K. Kishchen

Paul de Bel



Will Eyo
Carol Fokunaga



