
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sick and vulnerable
2 patients and their family members can easily become overwhelmed
3 within the medical system, especially when emergency medical
4 attention is necessary. Patients may be unaware of their rights
5 regarding the treatment and care they receive from their
6 emergency room physicians. There may be times when patients or
7 their family members disagree with the diagnosis or treatment
8 plan provided by the emergency room physicians, but feel forced
9 to accept the treatment plan despite their reservations or
10 concerns because they are unaware of how to effectively exercise
11 their rights to secure appropriate and available emergency
12 medical care. Thus, the legislature finds that a patient
13 advocate is needed to assist in effective case management and
14 intervene to enhance communication among patients, their family
15 members, and health care providers in emergency situations.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to
17 assess the scope and feasibility of establishing an emergency
18 services patient advocate program to provide assistance to and



1 advocate on behalf of patients receiving emergency medical care
2 to enable patients and their family members to recognize and
3 exercise their rights to secure appropriate and available
4 emergency medical care.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The director of health shall convene a
6 task force to assess the scope and feasibility of establishing
7 an emergency services patient advocate program to provide
8 assistance to and advocate on behalf of patients receiving
9 emergency medical care.

10 (b) The director of health or the director's designee
11 shall serve as the chairperson of the task force. The task
12 force shall consist of the following individuals:

- 13 (1) The director of health or the director's designee;
14 (2) Three individuals from the Healthcare Association of
15 Hawaii;
16 (3) One representative from the statewide health
17 coordinating council established under section 323D-
18 13, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
19 (4) Three community-patient members who shall be appointed
20 by the director of health.



1 No member of the task force shall be made subject to
2 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
3 member's participation as a member of the task force.

4 (c) The task force shall:

5 (1) Examine and identify current practices in emergency
6 services patient advocacy;

7 (2) Assess and identify best practices in emergency
8 services patient advocacy;

9 (3) Make recommendations on how to effectively implement
10 an emergency services patient advocate program,
11 including a timetable for implementation; and

12 (4) Determine the costs of implementing, and resources
13 necessary to implement, an emergency services patient
14 advocate program.

15 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its actions,
16 including findings, recommendations, and any proposed
17 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
18 to the convening of the regular session of 2014. The report
19 shall include the task force's actions in assessing the scope
20 and feasibility of establishing an emergency services patient
21 advocate program.



1 (e) The task force shall terminate on June 30, 2014.

2 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Task Force; Emergency Services Patient Advocate Program

Description:

Establishes a task force to assess the scope and feasibility of establishing an emergency services patient advocate program to provide assistance to and advocate on behalf of individuals receiving emergency medical care. (SB666 HD1)

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