

MAR 13 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY SERVICES PATIENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AND ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF PATIENTS RECEIVING EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE.

1 WHEREAS, in emergency medical situations, patients and
2 their families can become overwhelmed dealing with the medical
3 system; and

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5 WHEREAS, patients may often be unaware of their rights
6 regarding medical treatment and care options from emergency room
7 physicians; and

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9 WHEREAS, patients and their family members may feel
10 compelled or forced to accept a treatment plan for the patient
11 even if they disagree with a diagnosis or treatment plan
12 presented by the emergency room physician; and

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14 WHEREAS, if a patient has an advocate who explains and
15 assists in the communication between the patient, their family
16 members, and health care providers in emergency situations,
17 patients and their family members may be able to make better
18 informed decisions regarding emergency medical care treatment
19 options; and

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21 WHEREAS, establishing an Emergency Services Patient
22 Advocate Program would provide patient advocates in the
23 emergency rooms in the State, enabling patients and their family
24 members to have an advocate to assist in emergency medical care
25 situations; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
30 Health is encouraged to establish an Emergency Services Patient



