

MAR 13 2013

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## SENATE 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,  
29 that the Department of Health is encouraged to establish an  
30 Emergency Services Patient Advocate Program to provide  
31 assistance and advocate on the behalf of patients receiving  
32 emergency medical care services; and

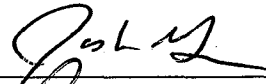
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
2 requested to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised  
3 Statutes, to establish the Emergency Services Patient Advocate  
4 Program; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.  
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OFFERED BY:

  
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*Enzanne Chun Oaki*

*Clarence Nishihara*

