
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS
THE SCOPE AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY
SERVICES PATIENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, 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; and

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6 WHEREAS, patients may be unaware of their rights regarding
7 the treatment and care they receive from their emergency room
8 physicians; and

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10 WHEREAS, patients or family members may disagree with the
11 diagnosis or treatment plan provided by the emergency room
12 physicians, but they feel forced to accept the treatment plan
13 despite their concerns because they are unaware of how to
14 effectively exercise their rights to secure appropriate and
15 available emergency medical care; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that a patient
18 advocate is needed to assist in the effective case management
19 of, and to enhance communication among, patients, family
20 members, and health care providers in emergency situations; now,
21 therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Director of
26 Health is urged to convene a task force to assess the scope and
27 feasibility of establishing an emergency services patient
28 advocate program to provide assistance to, and advocate on
29 behalf of, patients receiving emergency medical care; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the
2 director's designee serve as the chairperson of the task force;
3 and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
6 following members:

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- 8 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
- 9
- 10 (2) Four representatives from the Healthcare Association
11 of Hawaii, each of whom is to be a resident of one
12 each of the following counties: City and County of
13 Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and
14 County of Maui;
- 15
- 16 (3) Four representatives from the Subarea Health Planning
17 Councils of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council
18 established under section 323D-13, Hawaii Revised
19 Statutes;
- 20
- 21 (4) Three community-patient members who shall be appointed
22 by the Director of Health;
- 23
- 24 (5) One representative from the Hawaii Chapter of the
25 American College of Emergency Physicians;
- 26
- 27 (6) One representative of the Emergency Medical Services
28 and Advisory Committee;
- 29
- 30 (7) The directors of emergency departments of hospitals
31 located in Hawaii;
- 32
- 33 (8) Healthcare Association staff; and
- 34
- 35 (9) Individuals with direct experience in patient
36 advocacy; and
- 37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force:

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- 40 (1) Examine and identify current practices in emergency
41 services patient advocacy;
- 42
- 43 (2) Assess and identify best practices in emergency
44 services patient advocacy;



- 1
- 2 (3) Make recommendations on whether a statewide emergency
- 3 services patient advocate program is necessary; and
- 4
- 5 (4) Make recommendations on whether a statewide emergency
- 6 services patient advocate program would be cost-
- 7 effective; and
- 8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the task force be
10 subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because
11 of that member's participation as a member of the task force;
12 and;

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a report
15 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
16 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
17 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be terminated on
20 June 30, 2015; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
24 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare
25 Association of Hawaii, and Chairperson of the Statewide Health
26 Coordinating Council.

