
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REFRAIN FROM CHARGING
LICENSING FEES TO HOME CARE AGENCIES.

1 WHEREAS, home care agencies represent a critical sector of
2 Hawaii's health care industry; and
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4 WHEREAS, section 321-14.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, enacted
5 by Act 21, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, requires the
6 Department of Health to adopt rules for the licensure of home
7 care agencies; and
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9 WHEREAS, it is expected that the Department of Health will
10 impose a licensing fee on home care agencies to fund the
11 administrative costs associated with home care licensing
12 requirements; and
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14 WHEREAS, licensing fees for home care agencies vary widely
15 from state to state, with some states not charging for license
16 applications and others charging thousands of dollars regardless
17 of the number of patients served; and
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19 WHEREAS, licensing fees in Hawaii could reach thousands of
20 dollars and create a significant barrier for any individual
21 desiring to enter into the selfless field of home care; and
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23 WHEREAS, a licensing fee barrier to entering the home care
24 field would limit the number of available home care agencies and
25 harm the very people the licensing requirements were enacted to
26 protect; and
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28 WHEREAS, any licensing fee would simply be passed to the
29 home care patients and, since many home care patients receive
30 government assistance to fund their care, any licensing fee
31 would just result in transferring money from one government
32 agency to another; and



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WHEREAS, if home care agencies are forced out of business, their patients will go to other forms of health care providers, and, in turn, strain the State's capacity to provide quality health care; and

WHEREAS, many community organizations, such as the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, have spoken against the potentially devastating effects of a licensing fee on a disproportionately large number of existing home care agencies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is urged to refrain from charging licensing fees to home care agencies, even if authorized by law to charge such a fee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

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