
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING THE HAWAII HEALTH INFORMATION
EXCHANGE AS THE ONLY FULLY OPERATIONAL, STATEWIDE HEALTH
INFORMATION EXCHANGE OPERATING IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the establishment and development of health
2 information exchanges within the nation have become increasingly
3 significant in recent years and reflect the changing role
4 technology plays in government and business operations; and

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6 WHEREAS, public health experts and federal and state
7 governments recognize the potential economic and health benefits
8 of health information exchanges and similar electronic health
9 initiatives and are searching for ways to further their growth;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, the George W. Bush Administration previously
13 pledged \$10,000,000,000 toward the development and
14 implementation of health information technology; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Obama Administration continued the promotion
17 of health information technology with the enactment of the
18 Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health
19 (HITECH) Act, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment
20 Act of 2009; and

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22 WHEREAS, under the HITECH Act, the United States Department
23 of Health and Human Services is spending \$25,900,000,000 to
24 promote and expand the adoption of health information technology
25 and meaningful use of electronic health records across the
26 country; and

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28 WHEREAS, these resources, which are viewed as a one-time
29 investment, are providing a critical impetus to facilitate state
30 health information exchange efforts, including those meeting
31 health information exchange meaningful use requirements; and
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1 WHEREAS, in March 2010, all fifty states, the District of
2 Columbia, and the five United States territories received State
3 Health Information Exchange (State HIE) Cooperative Agreement
4 Program awards; and

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6 WHEREAS, this federal program funds states' efforts to
7 rapidly build capacity for exchanging health information across
8 the health care system within and across states; and

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10 WHEREAS, although the majority of the funding recipients
11 elected to have a state government as the grantee, Hawaii was
12 one of the states that chose to have a qualified private sector
13 state-designated entity be the funding recipient and
14 administrator for the federal grants; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange is a
17 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2006 by
18 Hawaii's leading health care stakeholders, and is governed by a
19 broad stakeholder Board of Directors whose members include and
20 represent: the Governor's Healthcare Transformation
21 Coordinator, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of
22 Medicine, public and private hospitals, independent physicians,
23 community health centers, laboratories, pharmacists, health
24 plans, businesses, and consumers in Hawaii; and

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26 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Hawaii Health Information
27 Exchange is to improve health care delivery across the State
28 through a seamless, effective, safe, and secure health
29 information exchange; and

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31 WHEREAS, in September 2009, the Hawaii Health Information
32 Exchange became the state-designated entity for implementing the
33 statewide health information exchange that will ultimately feed
34 into the nationwide eHealth Exchange technology network; and

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36 WHEREAS, accordingly, the Hawaii Health Information
37 Exchange received a \$5,602,318 State HIE Cooperative Agreement
38 Program grant award from the federal government; was tasked with
39 the challenge to implement and operationalize comprehensive
40 statewide health information exchange services within and beyond
41 the State; and was responsible for \$831,281 in matching state
42 funds, which the Hawaii Health Information Exchange raised
43 without state dollars; and

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1 WHEREAS, as an existing independent legal entity, the
2 Hawaii Health Information Exchange was able to utilize existing
3 infrastructure to assist health care providers with
4 electronically exchanging patient health information through a
5 secure mechanism in compliance with Health Insurance Portability
6 and Accountability Act regulations and deploy a robust, fully
7 developed statewide clinical information exchange; and
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9 WHEREAS, since receiving the State HIE Cooperative
10 Agreement Program grant award, the Hawaii Health Information
11 Exchange has been working directly with the federal Department
12 of Health and Human Services Office of National Coordinator for
13 Health Information Technology and the State's interagency Hawaii
14 Healthcare Project Hawaii Health Information Technology
15 Committee, including the Department of Health, Department of
16 Human Services, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
17 Office of Information Management and Technology, and Hawaii's
18 health care providers, to further develop Hawaii's health
19 information exchange capabilities; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange has thrived
22 and is meeting expectations under the State HIE Cooperative
23 Agreement Program; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange started
26 connecting health care providers to its network in 2012 and
27 currently has connected over six hundred users and one hundred
28 eighty physician practices, rural pharmacies, and large health
29 care providers, including Castle Medical Center; Clinical
30 Laboratories of Hawaii, LLP; Pan Pacific Pathologists, LLC;
31 Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc.; Hawaii Pacific Health; and
32 Hilo Medical Center; and
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34 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange has begun
35 to establish interfaces between providers and the Department of
36 Health; and
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38 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange also
39 continues to implement data sharing and funding contracts with
40 the State and private-sector stakeholders, including The Queen's
41 Medical Center, Hawaii Medical Service Association, and Kaiser
42 Permanente Hawaii Region; and
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1 WHEREAS, as the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program
2 comes to an end, many state governments are looking to replicate
3 Hawaii's model of establishing a joint commitment in partnership
4 with a qualified state-designated entity to operate their
5 statewide health information exchanges; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange, as the
8 State's federal grant designee, has been subject to federal
9 oversight for the duration of the State HIE Cooperative
10 Agreement Program; and
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12 WHEREAS, this federal oversight includes quarterly
13 reporting requirements; development of a sustainability plan,
14 governance structure, and privacy and security framework to
15 ensure the safety of patient information and knowledge; annual
16 financial audits; and a programmatic evaluation that must be
17 submitted thirty days after the grant's period of performance in
18 2014; and
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20 WHEREAS, this body finds that the Hawaii Health Information
21 Exchange, a private sector non-profit organization, has been
22 successful as the exclusive service provider designated to work
23 with the State to advance and support the health information
24 exchange needs in Hawaii, including the ongoing implementation
25 of the Hawaii Health Information Exchange's eHealth Exchange
26 network that benefits health care providers and health plans;
27 and
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29 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange has also
30 served as a conduit between health care providers and the State
31 for public health reporting; however, there is a need for a
32 continued working relationship with and resources provided by
33 the State to sustain these crucial services after the State HIE
34 Cooperative Agreement Program ends in 2014; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
38 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Health
39 Information Exchange is formally recognized and designated as
40 the only fully operational, statewide health information
41 exchange operating in the State of Hawaii; and
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Information
44 Exchange, as a partner with the Hawaii State Legislature and



1 Administration, continue to advance health care transformation
2 initiatives, including the electronic exchange of health
3 information; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
7 of Health, Director of Human Services, Chief Information
8 Officer, Insurance Commissioner, and Executive Director of the
9 Hawaii Health Information Exchange.

