
HOUSE 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
5

6 WHEREAS, patients may be unaware of their rights regarding
7 the treatment and care they receive from their emergency room
8 physicians; and
9

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
16

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,
22

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, that the Director of Health is urged to convene
26 a task force to assess the scope and feasibility of establishing
27 an emergency services patient advocate program to provide
28 assistance to, and advocate on behalf of, patients receiving
29 emergency medical care; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the
32 director's designee serve as the chairperson of the task force;
33 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
2 following members:

- 3
- 4 (1) The Director of Health or the director's designee;
- 5
- 6 (2) Four representatives from the Healthcare Association
7 of Hawaii, each of whom is to be a resident of one
8 each of the following counties: City and County of
9 Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and
10 County of Maui;
- 11
- 12 (3) Four representatives from the Subarea Health Planning
13 Council of the State Health Planning and Development
14 Agency under section 323D, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 15
- 16 (4) The directors of emergency rooms, or designees, from
17 hospitals located in Hawaii; and
- 18
- 19 (5) Three community-patient members who shall be appointed
20 by the Director of Health; and
- 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force:

- 23
- 24 (1) Examine and identify current practices in emergency
25 services patient advocacy;
- 26
- 27 (2) Assess and identify best practices in emergency
28 services patient advocacy;
- 29
- 30 (3) Make recommendations on how to effectively implement
31 an emergency services patient advocate program,
32 including a timetable for implementation; and
- 33
- 34 (4) Determine the costs of implementing, and resources
35 necessary to implement, an emergency services patient
36 advocate program; and
- 37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the task force be
39 subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because
40 of that member's participation as a member of the task force;
41 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a report
2 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
3 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
4 the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include the task
7 force's actions in assessing the scope and feasibility of
8 establishing an emergency services patient advocate program; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be terminated on
11 June 30, 2015; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, President
15 and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of
16 Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Statewide Health Coordinating
17 Council.
18
19
20
21

