
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONSIDER THE CHARGING OF
REASONABLE LICENSING FEES TO HEALTHCARE FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, healthcare facilities represent a critical sector
2 of Hawaii's health care industry; and
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4 WHEREAS, section 321-15.2 defines "healthcare facility" as
5 a facility or setting where a frail, elderly, or disabled adult
6 receives care or is provided living accommodations such as a
7 skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, adult
8 residential care home, expanded adult residential care home,
9 assisted living facility, home health agency, home care agency,
10 hospice, adult day health center, special treatment facility,
11 therapeutic living program, intermediate care facility for the
12 mentally retarded, hospital, rural health center, and
13 rehabilitation agency; and
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15 WHEREAS, it is expected that the Department of Health will
16 impose a licensing fee on healthcare facilities to fund the
17 administrative costs associated with home care licensing
18 requirements; and
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20 WHEREAS, licensing fees for healthcare facilities vary
21 widely from state to state, with some states not charging for
22 license applications and others charging thousands of dollars
23 regardless of the number of patients served; and
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25 WHEREAS, licensing fees in Hawaii could reach thousands of
26 dollars and create a significant barrier for any individual
27 desiring to enter into or remain in the selfless field of care-
28 giving, particularly for adult residential care homes, expanded
29 adult residential care homes; and
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31 WHEREAS, a licensing fee barrier to entering the healthcare
32 facility field would limit the number of available home care
33 agencies and harm the very people the licensing requirements
34 were enacted to protect; and
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1 WHEREAS, any licensing fee would simply be passed to the
2 patients and, since many healthcare facility patients receive
3 government assistance to fund their care, any licensing fee
4 would just result in transferring money from one government
5 agency to another; and

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7 WHEREAS, if healthcare facilities, particularly adult
8 residential care homes, expanded adult residential care homes
9 are forced out of business, their patients will go to other
10 forms of health care providers, and, in turn, strain the State's
11 capacity to provide quality health care; and

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13 WHEREAS, many community organizations, such as the Filipino
14 Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, have spoken against the
15 potentially devastating effects of a licensing fee on a
16 disproportionately large number of existing healthcare
17 facilities, particularly adult residential care homes, expanded
18 adult residential care homes; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2014, that the Department of Health is urged to
23 consider charging reasonable licensing fees to healthcare
24 facilities; and

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

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