
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII TO EXAMINE THE
PROBLEM OF PATIENTS IN ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS WAITLISTED FOR
LONG-TERM CARE AND TO PROPOSE SOLUTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, many patients in acute care hospitals whose
2 conditions have improved so that they may be transferred to
3 long-term care will stay and receive treatment at hospitals
4 because beds are not available for them at skilled nursing
5 facilities; and

6
7 WHEREAS, according to Hawaii Pacific Health, for example,
8 approximately one fourth of their waitlisted long-term care
9 patients are from Oahu, another one fourth are from the Pacific
10 Islands, and up to one half are neighbor island patients who are
11 transferred to one of Hawaii Pacific Health's hospitals on Oahu
12 or Kauai for care; and

13
14 WHEREAS, patients who should be receiving long term-care
15 can spend several months occupying an acute care bed at a
16 hospital while waiting for an available bed at a skilled nursing
17 facility; and

18
19 WHEREAS, in the meantime, these hospitals bear the
20 additional costs for caring for these patients, and hospitals
21 are forced to offer their already scarce acute care beds while
22 patients wait for an available space at a skilled nursing
23 facility; and

24
25 WHEREAS, most skilled nursing facilities are unable to
26 accommodate patients who are on dialysis, have a tracheotomy, or
27 have mental health issues, therefore, these patients are unable
28 to be discharged from the hospital and must stay for an extended
29 period of time; and

30



1 WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities on the neighbor islands
2 are frequently at maximum capacity, which makes it difficult for
3 patients receiving care on Oahu to transfer back to their home
4 island for long-term care; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the lack of beds available at skilled nursing
7 facilities in Hawaii has caused patients, particularly those
8 with mental health issues, to transfer to mainland facilities,
9 which takes these patients away from their families and a
10 familiar environment; and
11

12 WHEREAS, hospitals are forced to incur the expenses for
13 transferring a long term-care patient to the mainland, including
14 travel expenses, nurse care costs, and any additional fees to
15 assist a patient's family member with making the necessary
16 guardianship arrangements for the transfer; and
17

18 WHEREAS, skilled nursing facilities will not accept
19 patients until they have a source of payment and hospitals must
20 also bear their patients' health-care costs while their
21 applications for Medicaid or QUEST are being considered; and
22

23 WHEREAS, hospitals may receive only a partial payment, or
24 sometimes no payment at all, from commercial payers for the
25 patient's waitlisted days that are spent in the hospital,
26 creating a growing unsustainable financial burden on acute care
27 hospitals throughout the state; now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Healthcare
32 Association of Hawaii (HAH) is requested to conduct a study of
33 patients in acute care hospitals who are waitlisted for long-
34 term care, and to propose solutions to the problem; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
37 Services and the Department of Health cooperate with HAH in the
38 study; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that HAH is requested to submit a
41 report of findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
42 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
43 of 2008; and
44



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
3 Director of Human Services, Chief Executive Officer of HAH,
4 Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation,
5 Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health, Chief
6 Executive Officer of the Queen's Medical Center, Chief Executive
7 Officer of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, Director of the Hawaii Long
8 Term Care Association, and President of the Hawaii Disability
9 Rights Center.

