

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO STUDY THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACT
OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR USE OF THE LG1
INTELLIGENT MEDICAL VIGILANCE SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, thousands of patients die unnecessarily each year
2 in hospitals from unexpected accidents and errors; and

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4 WHEREAS, reasons include insufficient staffing and
5 ineffective systems in place to identify acute care hospital
6 medical-surgical patients in distress; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 1999, the Institute of Medicine issued a
9 clarion call with its report, "To Err Is Human" stating that
10 each year approximately 200,000 people die in the United States
11 hospitals from preventable errors and mistakes, of which nearly
12 20 percent of those deaths occur from "failure-to-rescue"; and

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14 WHEREAS, a "Patient's Right to Safety" is an emerging legal
15 entitlement and national standard-of-care for every acute care
16 hospital patient; and

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18 WHEREAS, medical-surgical units and nursing stations of a
19 typical acute care hospital are where most patients receive
20 noncritical care, generally involving regularly scheduled
21 nursing rounds every four to five hours; nevertheless, acute or
22 unexpected clinical events can go unnoticed for critical minutes
23 or hours, until the next visit by a physician or nurse; and

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25 WHEREAS, although rapid response teams are being promoted,
26 there are no systems which focus on the medical-surgical ward of
27 the acute care hospital, where nearly 75 percent of patients
28 typically receive care, for identifying and tracking patients in
29 distress; and



1 WHEREAS, technological solutions have been advocated to
2 augment patient safety on the medical-surgical wards of acute
3 care hospitals; and
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5 WHEREAS, an automated early alert system called the LG1
6 Intelligent Medical Vigilance System or "LG1," identifies at-
7 risk patients with an invisible, noncontact "Star Trek-like"
8 device that provides accurate and continuous observation of
9 heart and respiratory rates--the two most critical vital signs--
10 while the patient is in bed, and immediately notifies nursing
11 staff upon detecting a life-threatening condition; and
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13 WHEREAS, the LG1 has been developed, tested and validated
14 in clinical settings and specifically has federal Food and Drug
15 Administration authorization to provide the LG1 for medical-
16 surgical applications in acute care hospitals; and
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18 WHEREAS, the LG1 allows for noncontact physiological
19 measurements, eliminating the need for cumbersome, direct
20 patient connections, such as electrodes, cuffs, or cannula,
21 whereby nursing personnel are immediately notified of patients
22 at-risk and can respond proactively before an unexpected event
23 becomes serious, or even fatal; and
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25 WHEREAS, the LG1 enables more efficient use of resources
26 and staff by enabling nursing staff to be aware of, and respond
27 to, precipitous patient deterioration, checks on the patient
28 constantly, and calls the nurses for help only if the patient is
29 at serious risk; and
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31 WHEREAS, this critical capability will enable the LG1 to
32 become a standard-of-care for medical-surgical units in acute
33 care hospitals; and
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35 WHEREAS, because of the absence of health insurance
36 coverage, hospitals may be reluctant to provide the LG1 to its
37 patients; and
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39 WHEREAS, section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)
40 requires that "before any legislative measure that mandates
41 health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific
42 diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part
43 of individual or group health insurance policies, can be
44 considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed



1 requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature
2 a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of
3 the proposed mandated coverage"; and

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5 WHEREAS, section 23-51, HRS, further provides that the
6 concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative
7 bill that:

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9 (1) Has been introduced in the Legislature; and
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11 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:
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13 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
14 that would be covered;
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16 (B) Extent of the coverage;
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18 (C) Target groups that would be covered;
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20 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and
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22 (E) Standards of care;

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24 and

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26 WHEREAS, section 23-52, HRS, further specifies the minimum
27 information required for assessing the social and financial
28 impact of the proposed health coverage mandate in the Auditor's
29 report; and

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31 WHEREAS, .B. No. _____ mandates coverage of the LG1 for all
32 policies and contracts, hospital and medical service plan
33 contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health
34 maintenance organization plans and contracts issued after
35 December 31, 2007; and

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37 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health
38 insurance coverage for the LG1, as provided in .B. No. _____
39 (2007) will substantially enhance patient safety and provide a
40 new standard of care for the people of this State; now,
41 therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
4 requested to conduct an impact assessment report, pursuant to
5 sections 23-51 and 23-52, HRS, of the social and financial
6 impacts of mandating coverage of the LG1 for all policies and
7 contracts, hospital and medical service plan contracts, medical
8 service corporation contracts, and health maintenance
9 organization plans and contracts issued after December 31, 2007,
10 as provided in .B. No. ____ 2007; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
13 Corporation (HHSC) is requested to conduct a pilot study to
14 determine the social and financial impact to the system; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor and HHSC are
17 requested to submit findings and recommendations to the
18 Legislature, including any necessary implementing legislation,
19 no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular
20 Session of 2008; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of
24 Health, and Chief Executive Officer of HHSC.
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OFFERED BY: Amil ydfe

