

MAR 14 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP AND ADOPT POLICIES THAT ENSURE NOTIFICATION BY ALL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO THE GOVERNOR-DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY ENTITY OR AGENCY PRIOR TO TRANSFERRING ANY INDIVIDUAL OUT-OF-STATE TO A TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, OR LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, a serious issue facing our State is the lack of
2 capacity currently in our community to provide adequate care in
3 community-based residential settings; and
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5 WHEREAS, this is true not only for individuals with
6 disabilities, but for the vast majority of elderly individuals
7 in need of basic medical care or assistance with their
8 activities of daily living; and
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10 WHEREAS, the lack of capacity will become more exacerbated
11 over time, as our population ages; and
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13 WHEREAS, one of the unfortunate results of this lack of
14 capacity has been a significant increase in the number of Hawaii
15 residents transferred from hospitals or treatment facilities in
16 Hawaii to facilities on the mainland; and
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18 WHEREAS, as an island community, we have a responsibility
19 to properly care for our elders and individuals with
20 disabilities; and
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22 WHEREAS, we need to reverse this trend of sending our local
23 elders and citizens with disabilities to the mainland simply
24 because we lack the facilities to care for them here at home;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, we must build, develop, and increase our capacity
28 to care for our people in a way that preserves their dignity and
29 allows them to reside in a community-based setting and receive
30 care appropriate to their needs; and
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