

MAR 14 2007

SENATE 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

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31 WHEREAS, technological solutions have been advocated to
32 augment patient safety on the medical-surgical wards of acute
33 care hospitals; and



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



1 WHEREAS, section 23-51, HRS, further provides that the
2 concurrent resolutions shall designate a specific legislative
3 bill that:

4 (1) Has been introduced in the Legislature; and

5 (2) Includes, at a minimum, information identifying the:

6 (A) Specific health service, disease, or provider
7 that would be covered;

8 (B) Extent of the coverage;

9 (C) Target groups that would be covered;

10 (D) Limits on utilization, if any; and

11 (E) Standards of care;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, section 23-52, HRS, further specifies the minimum
14 information required for assessing the social and financial
15 impact of the proposed health coverage mandate in the Auditor's
16 report; and

17 WHEREAS, .B. No. _____ mandates coverage of the LG1 for all
18 policies and contracts, hospital and medical service plan
19 contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health
20 maintenance organization plans and contracts issued after
21 December 31, 2007; and

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health
23 insurance coverage for the LG1, as provided in .B. No. _____
24 (2007) will substantially enhance patient safety and provide a
25 new standard of care for the people of this State; now,
26 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 that the Auditor is requested to conduct an impact assessment
4 report, pursuant to sections 23-51 and 23-52, HRS, of the social
5 and financial impacts of mandating coverage of the LG1 for all
6 policies and contracts, hospital and medical service plan
7 contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health
8 maintenance organization plans and contracts issued after
9 December 31, 2007, as provided in .B. No. ____ 2007; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
12 Corporation (HHSC) is requested to conduct a pilot study to
13 determine the social and financial impact to the system; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor and HHSC are
16 requested to submit findings and recommendations to the
17 Legislature, including any necessary implementing legislation,
18 no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular
19 Session of 2008; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of Health,
23 and Chief Executive Officer of HHSC.
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OFFERED BY: Amiel N. Ige

