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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH PARITY BETWEEN PRIVATE NONPROFIT MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS OPERATING WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S STATEWIDE SYSTEM RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR COST REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED, FEE FOR SERVICE, AND SALARIES AND BENEFITS.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Health operates mental health  
2 centers to serve mental health patients statewide; and

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4           WHEREAS, various private, nonprofit organizations also  
5 operate mental health clinics, including the Waianae Coast  
6 Community Mental Health Center, Inc., dba Hale Na'au Pono, which  
7 operates a mental health clinic in Waianae on the island of  
8 Oahu; and

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10           WHEREAS, Hale Na'au Pono provides culturally and socially  
11 sensitive, community-based, behavioral health services for  
12 children and adults that cover a wide range of mental health  
13 needs including substance abuse and therapeutic foster care; and

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15           WHEREAS, Hale Na'au Pono originally operated as a part of  
16 the statewide system of mental health centers during the mid-  
17 1970s, but it eventually separated from the Department of  
18 Health's leeward district to serve Waianae as a separate  
19 catchment area as a demonstration model, and finally in 1987, it  
20 incorporated to form a community-owned and governed not-for-  
21 profit mental health center; and

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23           WHEREAS, it is the position of the Department of Health  
24 Adult Mental Health Division that in the field of social work,  
25 only a licensed clinical social worker may be reimbursed by the  
26 Division for therapy or eligibility determination services if  
27 provided by private mental health service providers outside of  
28 the Department of Health's statewide system; and

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1           WHEREAS, it is the Division's position that mental health  
2 case managers must be qualified by holding a bachelor's degree  
3 in selected fields related to the practice of mental health  
4 services, with a limited number of exceptions granted by the  
5 Division for high school-educated case managers, to provide  
6 services in private mental health service facilities outside of  
7 the Department of Health's statewide system; and

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9           WHEREAS, the Division uses non-clinical social workers and  
10 case managers without college degrees on a regular basis to work  
11 in state-operated mental health centers within the Division's  
12 statewide system; and

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14           WHEREAS, there appears to be a lack of parity between  
15 salary and benefits of employees under non-state operated mental  
16 health systems providing services to Division-qualified  
17 consumers under a fee-for-service as well as a cost-  
18 reimbursement system as compared to employees working within the  
19 Division-operated statewide system of mental health centers; and

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21           WHEREAS, the non-state operated mental health systems incur  
22 great expense investing in training and education and providing  
23 employees with experience in the field, only to find these  
24 employees lured away from their agencies by the state-operated  
25 system, creating a shortage of employees in the private provider  
26 sectors; now, therefore,

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28           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
30 Session of 2008, that the Department of Health is urged to  
31 establish parity between private nonprofit mental health centers  
32 and mental health centers operating within the Department of  
33 Health's statewide system relating to qualifications for cost  
34 reimbursement for services provided, fee-for-service, and  
35 salaries and benefits; and

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37           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
38 requested to carry out a comparative study to examine costs,  
39 contracts, arrangements, national accreditations, and services  
40 provided by private nonprofit mental health centers and mental  
41 health centers operating within the Department of Health's  
42 statewide system to determine the cost effectiveness and quality  
43 of services provided by a community-based private nonprofit



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1 mental health center compared to that of state-operated centers;  
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
5 requested to include the system of clubhouse services,  
6 outpatient services, community based case management services,  
7 and assertive community treatment services in the comparative  
8 study of services; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
11 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
12 recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation,  
13 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
14 convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and  
18 President of the Waianae Coast Community Mental Health Center,  
19 Inc., dba Hale Na'au Pono.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 12 2008

