S.C.R. NO. 120

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION EAST AND WEST REGIONAL BOARDS TO ESTABLISH THE BIG ISLAND LONG-TERM CARE COALITION TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR LONG-TERM CARE SOLUTIONS ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, the future of long-term care for Hawaii's senior and adult disabled population is one of the most critical health issues facing Hawaii in the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, the rapid growth of the elderly and disabled populations in the County of Hawaii will result in extraordinary demands on the delivery of long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who are eligible for long-term care are put on wait lists due to the shortage of available long-term care beds in the County of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, waitlisted patients do not receive services appropriate for their requisite level of care, and patients in need of acute care are denied beds that waitlisted patients continue to occupy; and

WHEREAS, hospitals that provide acute care services are financially depleted by waitlisted long-term care patients who occupy acute care beds because acute care hospitals are reimbursed according to the level of service required by patients, not the level of service actually provided; and

WHEREAS, this mismatch between long-term care capacity and need accounts for almost fifty per cent of Hawaii County hospitals' economic shortfall, resulting in a severe economic hardship for these hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the aging population will have greater long-term care needs going forward, requiring the availability of more long-term care beds; and

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WHEREAS, a collaboration of various stakeholders needs to be in place that enables home care for individuals when possible, and that also ensures the availability of long-term care for those individuals when it is required; and

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WHEREAS, a partnership between the State of Hawaii, the federal government, the County of Hawaii, and its private sector should be established to build and staff an appropriate number of long-term care beds throughout the County of Hawaii; and

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WHEREAS, this partnership will be the first step to ensuring that elderly and disabled individuals in the County of Hawaii will receive the quality long-term health care that they need; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East and West Regional Boards are requested to establish the Big Island Long-term Care Coalition, by July 1, 2009, to develop a plan for long-term care solutions in the County of Hawaii; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Boards shall invite their state and county elected officials and key community stakeholders to produce and submit a plan by January 15, 2010, to Senator Daniel Inouye, the Governor of Hawaii, and Mayor of the County of Hawaii to build new and expand current long-term care facilities in the County of Hawaii; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to United States Senator Daniel Inouye, the Governor, the Director of Health, the President of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the Directors of the East and West Regional Boards of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and the Mayor of the County of Hawaii.

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