

MAR 18 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A
STATEWIDE TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE LEGISLATURE ON METHODS
TO IMPROVE HAWAII'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness has
2 published "A Report on America's Health Care System for Adults
3 with Serious Mental Illness" which includes a State Report Card
4 for each state; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Hawaii received the grade of "C" for the State's
7 mental health care system; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's State Report Card notes that, "Hawaii's
10 mental health care system has improved substantially
11 since . . . the 1980s and early 1990s, but the state is now at
12 risk of sliding backward"; and

13
14 WHEREAS, during times of economic crisis, mental health
15 services are needed more urgently and yet budget cuts put the
16 State's provision of mental health services at risk; and

17
18 WHEREAS, many mental illnesses are treatable; and

19
20 WHEREAS, many people with mental illness are hospitalized,
21 live on the streets, are in jail, or die needlessly; now,
22 therefore,

23
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
27 requests the Department of Human Services to convene a statewide
28 Task Force of stakeholders to advise the Legislature on methods
29 to improve Hawaii's mental health services; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force of stakeholders
32 is requested to use "A Report on America's Health Care System



S.C.R. NO. 141

1 for Adults with Serious Mental Illness" and Hawaii's State
2 Report Card to glean methods to improve Hawaii's mental health
3 services; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
6 Services is requested to report the findings and recommendations
7 of the Task Force to the Legislature not later than twenty days
8 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
12 delegation, the Governor, the Director of Human Services, and
13 the Mayors of the respective counties of the State of Hawaii.
14
15
16

OFFERED BY: Shianne Chun Oakland

