

MAR 18 2009

## SENATE 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.

1 WHEREAS, the future of long-term care for Hawaii's senior  
2 and adult disabled population is one of the most critical health  
3 issues facing Hawaii in the twenty-first century; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the rapid growth of the elderly and disabled  
6 populations in the County of Hawaii will result in extraordinary  
7 demands on the delivery of long-term care services; and  
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9 WHEREAS, many individuals who are eligible for long-term  
10 care are put on wait lists due to the shortage of available  
11 long-term care beds in the County of Hawaii; and  
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13 WHEREAS, waitlisted patients do not receive services  
14 appropriate for their requisite level of care, and patients in  
15 need of acute care are denied beds that waitlisted patients  
16 continue to occupy; and  
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18 WHEREAS, hospitals that provide acute care services are  
19 financially depleted by waitlisted long-term care patients who  
20 occupy acute care beds because acute care hospitals are  
21 reimbursed according to the level of service required by  
22 patients, not the level of service actually provided; and  
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24 WHEREAS, this mismatch between long-term care capacity and  
25 need accounts for almost fifty per cent of Hawaii County  
26 hospitals' economic shortfall, resulting in a severe economic  
27 hardship for these hospitals; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the aging population will have greater long-term  
30 care needs going forward, requiring the availability of more  
31 long-term care beds; and  
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33 WHEREAS, a collaboration of various stakeholders needs to  
34 be in place that enables home care for individuals when



1 possible, and that also ensures the availability of long-term  
2 care for those individuals when it is required; and  
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4 WHEREAS, a partnership between the State of Hawaii, the  
5 federal government, the County of Hawaii, and its private sector  
6 should be established to build and staff an appropriate number  
7 of long-term care beds throughout the County of Hawaii; and  
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9 WHEREAS, this partnership will be the first step to  
10 ensuring that elderly and disabled individuals in the County of  
11 Hawaii will receive the quality long-term health care that they  
12 need; now, therefore,  
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
16 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East and West  
17 Regional Boards are requested to establish the Big Island Long-  
18 term Care Coalition, by July 1, 2009, to develop a plan for  
19 long-term care solutions in the County of Hawaii; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Boards shall  
22 invite their state and county elected officials and key  
23 community stakeholders to produce and submit a plan by  
24 January 15, 2010, to Senator Daniel Inouye, the Governor of  
25 Hawaii, and Mayor of the County of Hawaii to build new and  
26 expand current long-term care facilities in the County of  
27 Hawaii; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Resolution be transmitted to United States Senator Daniel  
31 Inouye, the Governor, the Director of Health, the President of  
32 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the Directors of the East  
33 and West Regional Boards of the Hawaii Health Systems  
34 Corporation, and the Mayor of the County of Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*John M. Burns*  
*James K. Kalia*

