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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 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  
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii received the grade of "C" for the State's  
7 mental health care system; and  
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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  
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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  
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18 WHEREAS, many mental illnesses are treatable; and  
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20 WHEREAS, many people with mental illness are hospitalized,  
21 live on the streets, are in jail, or die needlessly; now,  
22 therefore,  
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
26 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a  
27 statewide Task Force of stakeholders to advise the Legislature  
28 on methods to improve Hawaii's mental health services; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force of stakeholders  
31 is requested to use "A Report on America's Health Care System  
32 for Adults with Serious Mental Illness" and Hawaii's State  
33 Report Card to glean methods to improve Hawaii's mental health  
34 services; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
2 requested to report the findings and recommendations of the Task  
3 Force to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the  
4 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation,  
8 the Governor, the Director of Health, and the Mayors of the  
9 respective counties of the State of Hawaii.