

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1409

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 17 2009

RE: S.C.R. No. 169  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Human Services and Health, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 169 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF INCREASING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS TO HOSPITALS FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE WAITLISTED FOR LONG TERM CARE AND TO LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES TO ACCEPT WAITLISTED PATIENTS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Long Term Care Commission to conduct a study of increasing Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals for patients who are waitlisted for long-term care and to long-term care facilities to accept waitlisted patients.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Long Term Care Commission, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Disability Rights Center. Written testimony presented to your Committees may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committees find that on any given day there is an average of 200 patients in hospitals who have been treated, and are well enough to be transferred to long-term care, but are waitlisted because long-term care is not available. Patients may be waitlisted for several days, or even a year, and this creates a serious financial drain on hospitals. The average number of long-term beds available in the nation is 47 per 1000 people over

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the age of 65, however, Hawaii averages only 23 per 1000 people. The shortage of long-term care beds in Hawaii is due to the high costs of construction and operation mismatched with low payments for services. A study on increasing Medicaid reimbursements will provide insight into the steps that need to be taken to alleviate this problem.

Your Committees have amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purpose of consistency and style.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 169, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 169, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Human Services  
and Health,

*David Y. Ige*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID Y. IGE, Chair

*Suzanne Chun Oakland*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF  
INCREASING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS TO HOSPITALS FOR  
PATIENTS WHO ARE WAITLISTED FOR LONG-TERM CARE AND TO LONG-  
TERM CARE FACILITIES TO ACCEPT WAITLISTED PATIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent  
2 Resolution No. 198 in 2007 to request the Healthcare Association  
3 of Hawaii to study the long-term care waitlist problem, and  
4 subsequently House Concurrent Resolution No. 53 in 2008 to  
5 continue the study; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, these Concurrent Resolutions address the problem  
8 of patients who have been treated in acute care hospitals and  
9 whose conditions have improved so that they may be transferred  
10 for long-term care, but who remain in hospitals where the cost  
11 of caring for their needs exceeds the reimbursement amounts; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, waitlisted patients represent a serious problem in  
14 Hawaii because it results in a diminished number of acute care  
15 beds that are available for those with serious illnesses or  
16 injuries and high costs to hospitals; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, in response to the Concurrent Resolutions, the  
19 Healthcare Association of Hawaii created the Waitlist Task  
20 Force, which studied relevant issues and submitted a report to  
21 the 2009 Legislature that included a recommendation to increase  
22 Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals for patients who are  
23 waitlisted for long-term care, and also to long-term care  
24 facilities to accept these patients; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 706 and S.B. No. 417 were introduced in  
27 the 2009 Regular Session to implement the recommendations of the  
28 Waitlist Task Force; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, long-term care issues are now being considered  
31 comprehensively by the Long Term Care Commission, which was



1 created pursuant to Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, to  
2 study the financing of long-term care so that the needed  
3 infrastructure would be created; now, therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Long Term Care  
8 Commission is requested to consider increasing Medicaid  
9 reimbursements to hospitals for patients who are waitlisted for  
10 long-term care and to long-term care facilities to accept  
11 waitlisted patients; and  
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Long Term Care Commission  
14 review the report by the Waitlist Task Force, along with H.B.  
15 No. 706 and S.B. No. 417, Regular Session of 2009, and the  
16 testimony submitted on those measures; and  
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Long Term Care Commission  
19 submit a report to the Legislature of findings and  
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to address  
21 Medicaid reimbursements for waitlisted patients no later than  
22 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
23 2010; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
27 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, and the  
28 Chairperson of the Long Term Care Commission.



The Senate  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services**  
**HMS**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SCR 169</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HMS/HTH</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">4/7/09</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312         </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313         </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em;">3</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em;">0</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em;">0</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em;">1</div>
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted           <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; text-align: center;">[Signature]</div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div> <b>Distribution:</b>            Original            File with Committee Report         </div> <div>           Yellow            Clerk's Office         </div> <div>           Pink            Drafting Agency         </div> <div>           Goldenrod            Committee File Copy         </div> </div>				

**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**

The Senate  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health**  
**HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">SCR 169</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">HMS / HTH</div>	Date: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">4-7-9</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313         </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			✓
HEMMINGS, Fred				
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	0	0	1
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted         <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Original File with Committee Report</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

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