THE SENATE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013 STATE OF HAWAII S.B. NO. ⁶⁶⁶ S.D. 2 H.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sick and vulnerable 2 patients and their family members can easily become overwhelmed 3 within the medical system, especially when emergency medical 4 attention is necessary. Patients may be unaware of their rights 5 regarding the treatment and care they receive from their 6 emergency room physicians. There may be times when patients or 7 their family members disagree with the diagnosis or treatment 8 plan provided by the emergency room physicians, but feel forced 9 to accept the treatment plan despite their reservations or 10 concerns because they are unaware of how to effectively exercise 11 their rights to secure appropriate and available emergency 12 Thus, the legislature finds that a patient medical care. advocate is needed to assist in effective case management and 13 14 intervene to enhance communication among patients, their family 15 members, and health care providers in emergency situations.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to 17 assess the scope and feasibility of establishing an emergency 18 services patient advocate program to provide assistance to and SB666 HD1 HMS 2013-2902-1

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advocate on behalf of patients receiving emergency medical care
 to enable patients and their family members to recognize and
 exercise their rights to secure appropriate and available
 emergency medical care.

SECTION 2. (a) The director of health shall convene a
task force to assess the scope and feasibility of establishing
an emergency services patient advocate program to provide
assistance to and advocate on behalf of patients receiving
emergency medical care.

10 (b) The director of health or the director's designee
11 shall serve as the chairperson of the task force. The task
12 force shall consist of the following individuals:

13 (1) The director of health or the director's designee;
14 (2) Three individuals from the Healthcare Association of
15 Hawaii;

16 (3) One representative from the statewide health
 17 coordinating council established under section 323D-

18 13, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

19 (4) Three community-patient members who shall be appointed20 by the director of health.



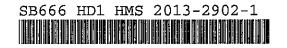
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1	No member of the task force shall be made subject to	
2	chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that	
3	member's participation as a member of the task force.	
4	(c)	The task force shall:
5	(1)	Examine and identify current practices in emergency
6		services patient advocacy;
7	(2)	Assess and identify best practices in emergency
8		services patient advocacy;
9	(3)	Make recommendations on how to effectively implement
10		an emergency services patient advocate program,
11		including a timetable for implementation; and
12	(4)	Determine the costs of implementing, and resources
13		necessary to implement, an emergency services patient
14		advocate program.
15	(đ)	The task force shall submit a report of its actions,
16	including	findings, recommendations, and any proposed
17	legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior	
18	to the convening of the regular session of 2014. The report	
19	shall include the task force's actions in assessing the scope	
20	and feasibility of establishing an emergency services patient	
21	advocate program.	

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(e) The task force shall terminate on June 30, 2014.
 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.





Report Title:

Task Force; Emergency Services Patient Advocate Program

Description:

Establishes a task force to assess the scope and feasibility of establishing an emergency services patient advocate program to provide assistance to and advocate on behalf of individuals receiving emergency medical care. (SB666 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

