

FEB 05 2016

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A PALLIATIVE  
CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

1 WHEREAS, palliative care is a multidisciplinary approach to  
2 specialized medical care providing relief to seriously ill  
3 patients, improving the patients' quality of life, and focusing  
4 on supporting patients and their families; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, receiving palliative care can improve a patient's  
7 ability to tolerate medical treatments and have more control  
8 over the patient's medical care by improving the patient's  
9 understanding of choices for treatment; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, a study published by the New England Journal of  
12 Medicine in 2010 found that advanced lung cancer patients who  
13 received palliative care had lower rates of depression and  
14 better quality of life than patients who only received standard  
15 treatments; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, patients diagnosed with serious or chronic  
18 illnesses qualify to receive palliative care at any stage in  
19 their illness; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, family caregivers can also benefit from palliative  
22 care as it provides care support on how to manage problems using  
23 creativity, more effectively partner with the patient to better  
24 manage the patient's symptoms, build a support network, and make  
25 better decisions; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
30 Health is requested to establish a palliative care and quality  
31 of life advisory council; and  
32



## S.C.R. NO. 24

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory council consist of  
2 nine voting members who are appointed by the Governor for four-  
3 year terms; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the advisory  
6 council be selected as follows:  
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- 8 (1) One employee of the Department of Health with a  
9 background in hospice and palliative care;  
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- 11 (2) Two physicians or nurses certified under the hospice  
12 and palliative medicine certification program  
13 administered by the American Board of Internal  
14 Medicine; and  
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- 16 (3) Six members representing persons with work experience  
17 in palliative care; persons with work experience in  
18 palliative care delivery models in a variety of  
19 settings, such as acute care, long term care, and  
20 hospice care, and with a variety of populations,  
21 including pediatric patients, youth patients, and  
22 adult patients; and persons who represent palliative  
23 care patients or family members of palliative care  
24 patients; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory council provide  
27 input on continuing education opportunities regarding palliative  
28 care for health care professionals, delivery of palliative care  
29 in the home and in primary, secondary, and tertiary  
30 environments, best practices in delivery, education materials  
31 for consumers of palliative care, and referral information for  
32 hospice and palliative care; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory council assist  
35 each health care facility and each health care service in the  
36 State to establish a system for identifying patients or  
37 residents who could benefit from hospice or palliative care and  
38 provide information to facilitate access to appropriate hospice  
39 and palliative care services for patients or residents with  
40 serious illness; and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 24

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the  
Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

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