JAN 2 5 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PATIENT NAVIGATION PROGRAM.

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

1	SECTION 1. The legislature finds that health disparities
2	are most pronounced in Hawai'i's rural Hawaiian communities with
3	Native Hawaiians having higher morbidity and mortality rates for
4	the leading causes of death, including diabetes, cardiovascular
5	disease, and cancer as reported by the Native Hawaiian Health
6	Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11701), the Office of Hawaiian
7	Affairs, Papa Ola Lokahi, department of health, University of
8	Hawaii department of Native Hawaiian health; and the Moloka'i
9	General Hospital community health needs assessment (2013). The
10	island of Moloka'i, with a population 7,345 of which thirty-two
11	per cent are of Native Hawaiian ancestry, is a federally
12	designated medically underserved area with limited medical
13	services and a shortage of healthcare providers. The proportion
14	of residents living below poverty is 17.8 per cent, which is
15	higher than the state proportion of 9.6 per cent. The
16	proportion of households with cash public assistance income was
17	double the state rate and unemployment rates are almost triple

- 1 the state rate. These economic indicators are added challenges
- 2 to a community with disproportionately higher rates of chronic
- 3 diseases.
- 4 Evidence-based patient navigation services at Moloka'i
- 5 General Hospital were initiated in 2006, and resultant research
- 6 successfully demonstrated statistically significant increases in
- 7 cancer screening rates and effective coordination for cancer
- 8 patients who are referred off-island to cancer treatment care
- 9 that is unavailable on Moloka'i.
- 10 In addition to Moloka'i, Hana has a disproportionately high
- 11 incidence of chronic diseases and mortality which are strongly
- 12 associated with lifestyle and risk factors. Of all racial
- 13 groups living in Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians are the racial group
- 14 with the highest proportion of risk factors leading to illness,
- 15 disability, and premature death. Native Hawaiians experience
- 16 high rates of circulatory disease and malignant tumors,
- 17 particularly respiratory and digestive types. Native Hawaiians
- 18 living in the Hana district have a high risk health profile
- 19 resulting in the onset of preventable chronic health conditions
- 20 and premature death. Sixty-two per cent of Hana Health patients
- 21 have been identified as high risk for diabetes and hypertension.

1	These sta	tistics are exacerbated by high rates of unemployment,		
2	underempl	oyment, and poverty.		
3	The	legislature further finds that this Act is consistent		
4	with the	state senate policy known as Ola Lehulehu, or people		
5	and communities, to provide funding for Native Hawaiian health			
6	care communities. In the area of health care, the policy			
7	focuses on:			
8	(1)	Essential social and cultural determinants that		
9		improve health outcomes amongst Hawai'i's indigenous		
10		population of Native Hawaiians as well as Pacific		
11		Islanders;		
12	(2)	Providing options to improved health care for keiki		
13		and residents in rural areas; and		
14	(3)	Supporting collaborative efforts to provide better		
15		dental care for keiki and adults.		
16	Pati	ent navigation services support access to timely care,		
17	and patient navigation is now being applied to manage other			
18	chronic d	isease care. The Queen's Medical Center also		
19	successfu	lly utilizes cancer patient navigators and are applying		

this discipline to support patients with chronic disease.

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1	The	purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for a
2	patient n	avigation program based at Molokaʻi General Hospital.
3	SECT	ION 2. (a) There is established a two-year temporary
4	patient n	avigation program based at Molokaʻi General Hospital.
5	(b)	The patient navigation program shall:
6	(1)	Collaborate with The Queen's Medical Center and 'Ahahui
7		O nā Kauka (Association of Native Hawaiian
8		Physicians);
9	(2)	Have a goal of improving medical outcomes for patients
10		with chronic disease in rural medically underserved
11		areas;
12	(3)	Focus on increasing access to care for patients with
13		chronic diseases in medically underserved rural
14		communities;
15	(4)	Demonstrate a cost effective protocol to increase
16		timely access to quality medical care for patients
17		with chronic disease in medically underserved rural
18		communities;
19	(5)	Use trained patient navigators of the Kukui Ahi
20		program at Moloka'i General Hospital and The Queen's
21		Medical Center; and

Medical Center; and

1	(6)	Apply the positive impact of patient navigation to
2		improved access to medical services, reduce costly
3		sequelae to untreated or undertreated chronic disease,
4		reduce hospital admissions, and promote improved
5		patient outcomes for patients with chronic disease in
5		medically underserved rural communities.

- (c) The results of the patient navigation program shall be shared with and tested by other rural Hawaiian communities such as Hana, island of Maui, that face similar challenges and may benefit from initiatives to improve access to health care that is too costly to establish and maintain within their home community.
- 13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
 15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 17 2018-2019 for a two-year temporary patient navigation program
 18 based at Moloka'i General Hospital.
- The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

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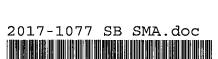
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9. Keleni Q

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:



Report Title:

Health; Moloka'i Hospital; Patient Navigation Program; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for a two-year temporary patient navigation program based at Moloka'i General Hospital for patients with chronic disease in medically underserved rural communities.

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