
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING PAYMENT TO HAWAII'S COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES (CCFFH) AND EXPANDED ADULT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES (E-ARCH) FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a limited number of beds
2 in nursing homes for patients requiring the level of care
3 provided by nursing homes; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Community Care Foster Family Home (CCFFH)
6 program and Expanded Adult Residential Care Home (E-ARCH)
7 program provide additional options for patients requiring
8 nursing home level care throughout the State; and
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10 WHEREAS, caregivers in CCFFHs and E-ARCHs effectively
11 provide the proper care needed for nursing home level patients,
12 including assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
13 specialized care such as the use of feeding tubes, catheters,
14 providing basic wound care, maintenance exercise programs,
15 cognitive stimulation, dietary management, and other custodial
16 care as needed; and
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18 WHEREAS, the availability of beds in CCFFHs and E-ARCHs can
19 reduce the length of hospital stays, provide emotional,
20 financial, and physical relief to families caring for a frail
21 senior or other family member in their own home, reducing the
22 risk of homelessness, morbidity, and mortality in patients
23 requiring nursing home level care; and
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25 WHEREAS, the ARCH program was introduced in Hawaii in the
26 1950s or earlier to provide assisted living type care; it was
27 expanded in 1994 to provide nursing home level care as the
28 E-ARCH program under the Department of Health, serving
29 approximately fourteen hundred patients with the potential for
30 an even greater capacity; and
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1 WHEREAS, the pilot CCFFH program was started in 1979 by The
2 Queen's Medical Center; it started receiving Medicaid funding
3 under a Federal Medicaid waiver in 1984, initially under the
4 direction of the Department of Human Services and currently
5 under the Department of Health, currently serving approximately
6 three thousand patients with the potential for an even greater
7 capacity; and

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9 WHEREAS, the 1984 CCFFH Federal Medicaid waiver was
10 approved based on its success as a high-quality alternative to
11 nursing home placement for Medicaid patients that cost two-
12 thirds or less than placement in a nursing home; and

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14 WHEREAS, the level of CCFFH reimbursement has not kept pace
15 with that two-thirds target ratio, resulting in a 2020
16 reimbursement rate to CCFFH providers that is approximately one-
17 sixth of that for nursing home placements; and

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19 WHEREAS, caregivers who accept Medicaid patients into their
20 CCFFH receive \$47.06/day plus the patient's Social Security
21 Assistance (SSA) for a maximum of \$2,500/month for room, board,
22 and all patient care while a nursing home receives \$280.00/day
23 plus SSA for the same patient for a maximum of \$10,100/month
24 (with HMSA insurance, Kaiser health plan, and UHA insurance at
25 slightly higher rates); and

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27 WHEREAS, studies by the American Association of Retired
28 Persons (AARP) show that Hawaii needs to improve efforts to
29 provide lower cost long-term care services available in the
30 community under Hawaii's MedQuest Medicaid program rather than
31 the more expensive care in nursing homes; and

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33 WHEREAS, CCFFH and E-ARCH operators are often dually
34 employed in nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living
35 facilities, and other health care facilities around the State in
36 order to supplement their income and maintain their own health
37 benefits which creates greater risk for the spread of infectious
38 disease; and

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40 WHEREAS, many CCFFH caregivers decline to accept Medicaid
41 patients and instead save empty beds for private pay patients in



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1 order to optimize their income, thus reducing the number of beds
2 available for Medicaid patients; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Human
7 Services is requested to review the existing payment model for
8 Medicaid reimbursement for patients who require nursing home
9 level of care in the community and study the feasibility of
10 increasing the reimbursement rate to CCFFH and E-ARCH care
11 providers and determine the overall effect of increasing the
12 rate for CCFFH and E-ARCH care providers; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
15 Services is requested to submit a report of its findings and
16 recommendations to the Legislature no later than thirty days
17 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
21 Services, Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii, and
22 Alliance of Residential Care Home Administrators.
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OFFERED BY:

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