
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A COMPLEX NEEDS PATIENT WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS, SERVICES, AND FUNDING FOR COMPLEX NEEDS PATIENTS WHO HAVE MULTIPLE SIGNIFICANT BUT NOT SEVERE DIAGNOSES OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS, INCLUDING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS, OR CHRONIC PHYSICAL ILLNESS CONDITIONS.

1 WHEREAS, complex needs patients - those with co-occurring
2 substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and chronic
3 physical illness conditions - represent a high-need, high-cost
4 population that requires a modern, integrated care strategy; and
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6 WHEREAS, complex needs patients often cycle through
7 fragmented, siloed health care systems that fail to produce
8 meaningful outcomes while generating significant costs, leading
9 to frequent emergency room visits, repeated hospitalizations,
10 justice system involvement, homelessness, and poor health
11 outcomes, placing an outsized burden on social services,
12 including Medicaid and Medicare; and
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14 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, approximately fifty-four thousand
15 adults have chronic conditions of co-occurring mental health and
16 substance use disorders, often coupled with chronic physical
17 illnesses resulting in two or more multiple chronic conditions,
18 and if left untreated, these conditions become severe; and
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20 WHEREAS, residential, therapeutic living, and intensive
21 outpatient programs for complex needs patients achieve better
22 outcomes when treated simultaneously in integrated care models
23 that combine medical, behavioral, and social treatments in
24 coordinated care plans delivered by multidisciplinary teams; and
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26 WHEREAS, an evidenced-based pilot program would position
27 Hawaii to compete for federal grants, and align Medicaid and



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1 Medicare funding to support integrated services that would
2 effectively close the gaps in care; and
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4 WHEREAS, the infrastructure already exists because
5 substance use disorder treatment models have staff with
6 expertise to treat co-occurring "severe" mental health disorders
7 and substance abuse; and
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9 WHEREAS, some substance abuse treatment programs have
10 integrated models that also treat chronic physical illness
11 conditions but only address patients with severe mental illness;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, a working group convened by the Department of
15 Health would help to develop collaborative processes between the
16 Department of Health and appropriate agencies; and
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18 WHEREAS, this body believes developing integrated
19 approaches to treat substance abuse, mental health, and chronic
20 disease conditions in one setting would improve engagement,
21 reduce fragmentation, lower relapse and hospitalization rates,
22 and support long-term recovery; now, therefore,
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
27 requested to convene a Complex Needs Patient Working Group to
28 address the needs, services, and funding for complex needs
29 patients who have multiple significant but not severe diagnoses
30 of chronic conditions, including substance use disorders, mental
31 health disorders, or chronic physical illness conditions; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the
34 Director's designee, is requested to chair the Complex Needs
35 Patient Working Group, work with various departments, and invite
36 members that could provide assistance, such as from the Hawaii
37 Substance Abuse Coalition, other substance use or mental health
38 disorder providers, or health care facilities, as appropriate,
39 as determined by the Director of Health or the Director's
40 designee; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Complex Needs Patient
2 Working Group is requested to consider the following:

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- 4 (1) The need, evidenced-based services to address the
5 need, and recommendations for funding to operate, or
6 contract for the operation of one or more integrated
7 residential treatment and therapeutic living
8 facilities to serve complex needs patients;
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 - 10 (2) Comprehensive substance use disorder treatments via
11 residential and therapeutic living programs, including
12 medication-assisted treatment;
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 - 14 (3) Mental health evaluation, medication management,
15 psychotherapy, and crisis stabilization;
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 - 17 (4) On-site or immediately available primary health care,
18 chronic disease management, and coordination with
19 specialty medical care providers;
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 - 21 (5) Integrated nursing services;
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 - 23 (6) Care coordination, case management, and discharge
24 planning;
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 - 26 (7) Peer support services;
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 - 28 (8) Recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and culturally
29 responsive programming;
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 - 31 (9) Philosophy regarding the pursuit of abstinence to
32 improve functionality; and
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 - 34 (10) Assistance with housing, employment, and social
35 determinants of health; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
38 requested to submit a report of its findings and
39 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
41 the Regular Session of 2027; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2026

