
HOUSE 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
28 Medicare funding to support integrated services that would
29 effectively close the gaps in care; and



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2 WHEREAS, the infrastructure already exists because
3 substance use disorder treatment models have staff with
4 expertise to treat co-occurring "severe" mental health disorders
5 and substance abuse; and
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7 WHEREAS, some substance abuse treatment programs have
8 integrated models that also treat chronic physical illness
9 conditions but only address patients with severe mental illness;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, a working group convened by the Department of
13 Health would help to develop collaborative processes between the
14 Department of Health and appropriate agencies; and
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16 WHEREAS, this body believes developing integrated
17 approaches to treat substance abuse, mental health, and chronic
18 disease conditions in one setting would improve engagement,
19 reduce fragmentation, lower relapse and hospitalization rates,
20 and support long-term recovery; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2026, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a
25 Complex Needs Patient Working Group to address the needs,
26 services, and funding for complex needs patients who have
27 multiple significant but not severe diagnoses of chronic
28 conditions, including substance use disorders, mental health
29 disorders, or chronic physical illness conditions; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the
32 Director's designee, is requested to chair the Complex Needs
33 Patient Working Group, work with various departments, and invite
34 members that could provide assistance, such as from the Hawaii
35 Substance Abuse Coalition, other substance use or mental health
36 disorder providers, or health care facilities, as appropriate,
37 as determined by the Director of Health or the Director's
38 designee; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Complex Needs Patient
41 Working Group is requested to consider the following:
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- 1 (1) The need, evidenced-based services to address the
2 need, and recommendations for funding to operate, or
3 contract for the operation of one or more integrated
4 residential treatment and therapeutic living
5 facilities to serve complex needs patients;
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- 7 (2) Comprehensive substance use disorder treatments via
8 residential and therapeutic living programs, including
9 medication-assisted treatment;
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- 11 (3) Mental health evaluation, medication management,
12 psychotherapy, and crisis stabilization;
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- 14 (4) On-site or immediately available primary health care,
15 chronic disease management, and coordination with
16 specialty medical care providers;
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- 18 (5) Integrated nursing services;
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- 20 (6) Care coordination, case management, and discharge
21 planning;
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- 23 (7) Peer support services;
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- 25 (8) Recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and culturally
26 responsive programming;
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- 28 (9) Philosophy regarding the pursuit of abstinence to
29 improve functionality; and
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- 31 (10) Assistance with housing, employment, and social
32 determinants of health; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
35 requested to submit a report of its findings and
36 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
37 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
38 the Regular Session of 2027; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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H.R. NO. 70

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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...', is written over a horizontal line.

MAR 12 2026

