

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMAL
WORKING GROUP TO ASSESS THE SERVICES AND FUNDING NECESSARY
TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF COMPLEX PATIENTS WHO HAVE AT LEAST
TWO OR MORE DIAGNOSES THAT INCLUDE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS,
MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS, OR CHRONIC PHYSICAL ILLNESSES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that complex patients--those
2 who have co-occurring substance use disorders, mental health
3 disorders, or chronic physical conditions--represent a
4 high-need, high-cost population that requires a modern,
5 integrated care strategy; and

6
7 WHEREAS, complex patients often cycle through fragmented
8 and siloed health care systems that fail to produce meaningful
9 outcomes while generating high costs; leading to frequent
10 emergency room visits, hospitalizations, justice system
11 involvement, homelessness, and poor health outcomes; and placing
12 an outsized burden on social services, including Medicare and
13 Medicaid; and

14
15 WHEREAS, approximately fifty-four thousand adults in the
16 State have chronic conditions of co-occurring mental health and
17 substance use disorders, often coupled with multiple chronic
18 physical illnesses, which, if left untreated, may become severe;
19 and

20
21 WHEREAS, residential and therapeutic living and intensive
22 outpatient programs for complex patients achieve better outcomes
23 when conditions are treated simultaneously in integrated care
24 models that combine medical, behavioral, and social treatments
25 in coordinated care plans delivered by multidisciplinary teams;
26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, the establishment of an evidence-based pilot
29 program would position Hawaii to compete for federal grants;
30 allow the alignment of Medicare and Medicaid funding to support



1 integrated services; and help close the gaps in care services
2 for complex patients; and

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4 WHEREAS, the infrastructure for offering integrated
5 services currently exists, including substance use disorder
6 treatment models for which staff have the expertise to treat
7 both co-occurring severe mental health disorders and substance
8 abuse disorders; and

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10 WHEREAS, some substance abuse treatment programs use
11 integrated models that also treat chronic physical conditions of
12 complex patients; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that it is time to end
15 the fragmentation of care services by developing integrated
16 approaches to treat substance abuse disorders, mental health
17 disorders, and chronic illnesses in one setting; and

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19 WHEREAS, integrated care services would help improve
20 engagement, lower relapse and hospitalization rates, and support
21 complex patients' long-term recovery; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
26 Health is requested to assess the services and funding necessary
27 to address the needs of complex patients who have at least two
28 or more diagnoses that include substance use disorders, mental
29 health disorders, or chronic physical illnesses; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
32 requested to establish an informal working group consisting of
33 relevant stakeholders, as determined by the Department, to
34 develop collaborative processes between the Department and other
35 appropriate agencies and organizations; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the informal working group is
38 requested to consider:

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40 (1) The needs of complex patients, evidence-based services
41 available to address the needs of complex patients,
42 and recommendations for necessary funding to operate,



- 1 or contract for the operation of, one or more
- 2 integrated residential treatment and therapeutic
- 3 living facilities to serve complex patients;
- 4
- 5 (2) The feasibility of including medication-assisted
- 6 treatments and comprehensive substance use disorder
- 7 treatments at residential and therapeutic living
- 8 facilities;
- 9
- 10 (3) Recommended protocols for concluding mental health
- 11 evaluations, managing medications, offering
- 12 psychotherapy, and stabilizing patients in crisis; and
- 13
- 14 (4) Recommendations for providing:
- 15
- 16 (A) On-site or immediately available primary medical
- 17 care and chronic disease management, and for
- 18 coordinating care with specialty medical
- 19 providers;
- 20
- 21 (B) Integrated nursing services;
- 22
- 23 (C) Care coordination, case management, and discharge
- 24 planning services;
- 25
- 26 (D) Peer support services;
- 27
- 28 (E) Recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and
- 29 culturally responsive programming;
- 30
- 31 (F) A philosophy centered on the "pursuit of
- 32 abstinence" to improve functionality; and
- 33
- 34 (G) Assistance with housing, employment, and social
- 35 determinants of health; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the
38 Director's designee, is requested to chair and convene the
39 informal complex patients working group, consisting of
40 administrators or designees from various relevant state
41 agencies, as determined by the Director of Health; and
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S.C.R. NO. 149

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the
2 Director's designee is requested to invite members who could
3 provide assistance or expertise to the working group, including:
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- 5 (1) A representative from the Hawaii Substance Abuse
6 Coalition;
- 7
- 8 (2) Other substance use or mental health disorder
9 providers;
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- 11 (3) Medical organization or agency representatives; and
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- 13 (4) Any other appropriate members, as determined by the
14 Director of Health; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
17 requested to submit a report of the working group's findings and
18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
19 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the Regular Session of 2027; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
24 Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:



BY REQUEST

