
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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



1 Medicare and Medicaid funding to support integrated services,
2 and help close the gaps in care services for complex patients;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the infrastructure for offering integrated
6 services currently exists, including substance use disorder
7 treatment models for which staff have the expertise to treat
8 both co-occurring severe mental health disorders and substance
9 abuse disorders; and
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11 WHEREAS, some substance abuse treatment programs use
12 integrated models that also treat chronic physical conditions of
13 complex patients; and
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15 WHEREAS, this body believes that it is time to end the
16 fragmentation of care services by developing integrated
17 approaches to treat substance abuse disorders, mental health
18 disorders, and chronic illnesses in one setting; and
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20 WHEREAS, integrated care services would help improve
21 engagement, lower relapse and hospitalization rates, and support
22 complex patients' long-term recovery; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
27 Health is requested to assess the services and funding necessary
28 to address the needs of complex patients who have two or more
29 diagnoses that include substance use disorders, mental health
30 disorders, or chronic physical illnesses; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
33 requested to establish a working group consisting of the
34 administrators or their designees of the appropriate state
35 agencies, as determined by the Department, to develop
36 collaborative processes between the Department and other
37 appropriate agencies and organizations; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the
40 Director's designee is requested to invite members who could
41 provide assistance or expertise to the working group, including:
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- 1 (1) A representative from the Hawaii Substance Abuse
- 2 Coalition;
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- 4 (2) Other substance use or mental health disorder
- 5 providers;
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- 7 (3) Medical organization or agency representatives; and
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- 9 (4) Any other appropriate members, as determined by the
- 10 Director of Health; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
13 to consider:

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- 15 (1) The needs of complex patients, evidence-based services
- 16 available to address the needs of complex patients,
- 17 and recommendations for necessary funding to operate,
- 18 or contract for the operation of, one or more
- 19 integrated residential treatment and therapeutic
- 20 living facilities to serve complex patients;
- 21
- 22 (2) The feasibility of including medication-assisted
- 23 treatments and comprehensive substance use disorder
- 24 treatments at residential and therapeutic living
- 25 facilities;
- 26
- 27 (3) Recommended protocols for conducting mental health
- 28 evaluations, managing medications, offering
- 29 psychotherapy, and stabilizing patients in crisis; and
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- 31 (4) Recommendations for providing:
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- 33 (A) On-site or immediately available primary medical
- 34 care and chronic disease management, and for
- 35 coordinating care with specialty medical
- 36 providers;
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- 38 (B) Integrated nursing services;
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- 40 (C) Care coordination, case management, and discharge
- 41 planning services;
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- 1 (D) Peer support services;
- 2
- 3 (E) Recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and
- 4 culturally responsive programming;
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- 6 (F) A philosophy centered on the "pursuit of
- 7 abstinence" to improve functionality; and
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- 9 (G) Assistance with housing, employment, and social
- 10 determinants of health; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the
13 Director's designee, is requested to chair and convene the
14 working group; 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.

