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# 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 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

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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

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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

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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,



1 allow the alignment of Medicare and Medicaid funding to support  
2 integrated services, and help close the gaps in care services  
3 for complex patients; 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, the Legislature believes that it is time to end  
16 the 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 an informal working group consisting of  
34 relevant stakeholders, as determined by the Department, to  
35 develop collaborative processes between the Department and other  
36 appropriate agencies and organizations; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the informal working group is  
39 requested to consider:  
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- 41 (1) The needs of complex patients, evidence-based services  
42 available to address the needs of complex patients,



1 and recommendations for necessary funding to operate,  
2 or contract for the operation of, one or more  
3 integrated residential treatment and therapeutic  
4 living facilities to serve complex patients;  
5

6 (2) The feasibility of including medication-assisted  
7 treatments and comprehensive substance use disorder  
8 treatments at residential and therapeutic living  
9 facilities;  
10

11 (3) Recommended protocols for conducting mental health  
12 evaluations, managing medications, offering  
13 psychotherapy, and stabilizing patients in crisis; and  
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15 (4) Recommendations for providing:  
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17 (A) On-site or immediately available primary medical  
18 care and chronic disease management, and for  
19 coordinating care with specialty medical  
20 providers;  
21

22 (B) Integrated nursing services;  
23

24 (C) Care coordination, case management, and discharge  
25 planning services;  
26

27 (D) Peer support services;  
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29 (E) Recovery-oriented, trauma-informed, and  
30 culturally responsive programming;  
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32 (F) A philosophy centered on the "pursuit of  
33 abstinence" to improve functionality; and  
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35 (G) Assistance with housing, employment, and social  
36 determinants of health; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the  
39 Director's designee, is requested to chair and convene the  
40 informal working group, consisting of administrators or  
41 designees from various relevant state agencies, as determined by  
42 the Director of Health; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the  
3 Director's designee is requested to invite members who could  
4 provide assistance or expertise to the working group, including:  
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6 (1) A representative from the Hawaii Substance Abuse  
7 Coalition;

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9 (2) Other substance use or mental health disorder  
10 providers;

11  
12 (3) Medical organization or agency representatives; and  
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14 (4) Any other appropriate members, as determined by the  
15 Director of Health; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
18 requested to submit a report of the working group's findings and  
19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
20 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
21 the Regular Session of 2027; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
25 Director of Health.

