
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A STATEWIDE TASK
FORCE TO ADVISE THE LEGISLATURE ON METHODS TO IMPROVE
HAWAII'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness has
2 published "A Report on America's Health Care System for Adults
3 with Serious Mental Illness" which includes a State Report Card
4 for each state; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii received the grade of "C" for the State's
7 mental health care system; and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's State Report Card notes that, "Hawaii's
10 mental health care system has improved substantially
11 since . . . the 1980s and early 1990s, but the state is now at
12 risk of sliding backward"; and

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14 WHEREAS, during times of economic crisis, mental health
15 services are needed more urgently and yet budget cuts put the
16 State's provision of mental health services at risk; and

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18 WHEREAS, many mental illnesses are treatable; and

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20 WHEREAS, many people with mental illness are hospitalized,
21 live on the streets, are in jail, or die needlessly; now,
22 therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
27 Health is requested to convene a statewide Task Force of
28 stakeholders to advise the Legislature on methods to improve
29 Hawaii's mental health services; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force of stakeholders
32 is requested to use "A Report on America's Health Care System

1 for Adults with Serious Mental Illness" and Hawaii's State
2 Report Card to glean methods to improve Hawaii's mental health
3 services; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
6 requested to report the findings and recommendations of the Task
7 Force to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the
8 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
12 delegation, the Governor, the Director of Health, and the Mayors
13 of the respective counties of the State of Hawaii.