WHEREAS, the widespread use of electronic health records systems would contribute to greater efficiency and cost savings in the practice of medicine in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, in addition to more effective storage and transmission of medical records and patient data, interoperable electronic health record systems would contribute to greater efficiency and savings in medical billing and claims, both for private and government payors; and

WHEREAS, the medical records systems and claims used by agencies within the Department of Health are incompatible with the electronic data systems of many of their behavioral health providers; and

WHEREAS, data incompatibilities often lead to providers having to enter their electronic patient notes twice: once into systems that are compatible with federal claims systems and again into the State's outdated system; and

WHEREAS, many of the data compatibility problems experienced by behavioral health care providers would be remedied if the Department of Health, were to upgrade to an electronic system that meets the federal health data system standards for registration and billing that are established by the Health Information Privacy and Portability Act of 1996, popularly known as "HIPAA"; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's administration has established electronic medical records development as a cornerstone of national health care reform, and made federal economic recovery and stimulus funds available for projects that create health
care savings by implementing electronic medical data systems;
now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a task force on electronic health records to develop a strategy for standardizing information technology practices among behavioral health providers and the Department of Health, including medical claims forms and medical records, to make the provision of behavioral health care more efficient; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the task force include:

(1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee, who is requested to serve as its chair;

(2) Representatives of each of the behavioral health agencies within the Department of Health, to be designated by the Director; and

(3) Members of the behavioral health care provider community, who shall be requested to serve by the Director of Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, who in turn, is requested to distribute copies of this resolution to the heads of the behavioral health agencies within the Department of Health, and to members of the behavioral health provider community.