

MAR 14 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO PROMOTE
COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AND COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTERS AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO HAVE CERTAIN RURAL
HOSPITALS DESIGNATED AS FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.

1 WHEREAS, rural communities in Hawaii are faced with many of
2 the same health care issues and challenges that are confronting
3 the rest of the nation, including burdensome health care costs,
4 large numbers of uninsured and underinsured persons, and an
5 overextended health care structure; and
6

7 WHEREAS, many rural hospitals in Hawaii do not have the
8 resources to invest in critical plant and technological
9 upgrades; and
10

11 WHEREAS, Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates remain
12 generally below the actual costs of services provided, putting
13 stress on providers that depend on reimbursements from public
14 programs; and
15

16 WHEREAS, as stated in the federal Health Resources and
17 Service Administration policy, "The goal of collaboration is to
18 utilize the strengths of all involved organizations to best meet
19 the overall health care needs of the area's underserved
20 population"; and
21

22 WHEREAS, section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states,
23 "Each regional system board and each community hospital under
24 the jurisdiction of the corporation shall collaborate with
25 community health centers within their respective geographic
26 jurisdictions to maximize funding from the state and federal
27 governments to:
28

- 29 (1) Maximize reimbursement for health care services
30 provided;
31



- 1 (2) Acquire funds for capital investment;
- 2
- 3 (3) Provide expanded hours of service; and
- 4
- 5 (4) Ensure the provision of the appropriate level of care
- 6 to the community served by each community health
- 7 center"; and
- 8

9 WHEREAS, a collaboration between community hospitals and
10 community health centers will help rural communities in Hawaii
11 by improving and expanding access to health care, encouraging
12 continuing partnerships with other health care organizations,
13 and ensuring that services, including primary, preventive, and
14 enabling services, are appropriately available to rural
15 patients; and

16
17 WHEREAS, there are twenty-two hospitals in Hawaii, thirteen
18 of which are located in rural areas; two rural health clinics;
19 and fourteen federally qualified health centers that provide
20 services at thirty-seven sites in the State of Hawaii; and

21
22 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a robust network of federally qualified
23 health centers that provide quality health care to more than one
24 hundred thousand uninsured persons, tailor their services to fit
25 the special needs and priorities of the community, and offer
26 services such as transportation, case management, and health
27 education that help patients access health care; and

28
29 WHEREAS, having certain rural hospitals meet the
30 requirements of a federally qualified health center will expand
31 the focus on primary care and prevention, capture the cost-based
32 reimbursement for all services provided to Medicaid patients,
33 and make such facilities eligible for free malpractice coverage
34 under the Federal Tort Claims Act; and

35
36 WHEREAS, a plan to have certain rural hospitals, including
37 Hale Ho'ola Hamakua, Ka'u Hospital, Kauai Veterans Memorial
38 Hospital, Kohala Hospital, Kula Hospital, Lanai Community
39 Hospital, and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital, recognized as
40 federally qualified health centers within their respective
41 geographic jurisdictions needs to be developed in order to
42 design a more cost-effective care plan for all of the State's
43 residents in rural settings; now, therefore,



