

MAR 14 2012

SENATE 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
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7 WHEREAS, many rural hospitals in Hawaii do not have the
8 resources to invest in critical plant and technological
9 upgrades; and
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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
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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
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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:
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29 (1) Maximize reimbursement for health care services
30 provided;
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32 (2) Acquire funds for capital investment;
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34 (3) Provide expanded hours of service; and



1
2 (4) Ensure the provision of the appropriate level of care
3 to the community served by each community health
4 center"; and
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6 WHEREAS, a collaboration between community hospitals and
7 community health centers will help rural communities in Hawaii
8 by improving and expanding access to health care, encouraging
9 continuing partnerships with other health care organizations,
10 and ensuring that services, including primary, preventive, and
11 enabling services, are appropriately available to rural
12 patients; and
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14 WHEREAS, there are twenty-two hospitals in Hawaii, thirteen
15 of which are located in rural areas; two rural health clinics;
16 and fourteen federally qualified health centers that provide
17 services at thirty-seven sites in the State of Hawaii; and
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19 WHEREAS, Hawaii has a robust network of federally qualified
20 health centers that provide quality health care to more than one
21 hundred thousand uninsured persons, tailor their services to fit
22 the special needs and priorities of the community, and offer
23 services such as transportation, case management, and health
24 education that help patients access health care; and
25

26 WHEREAS, having certain rural hospitals meet the
27 requirements of a federally qualified health center will expand
28 the focus on primary care and prevention, capture the cost-based
29 reimbursement for all services provided to Medicaid patients,
30 and make such facilities eligible for free malpractice coverage
31 under the Federal Tort Claims Act; and
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33 WHEREAS, a plan to have certain rural hospitals, including
34 Hale Ho'ola Hamakua, Ka'u Hospital, Kauai Veterans Memorial
35 Hospital, Kohala Hospital, Kula Hospital, Lanai Community
36 Hospital, and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital, recognized as
37 federally qualified health centers within their respective
38 geographic jurisdictions needs to be developed in order to
39 design a more cost-effective care plan for all of the State's
40 residents in rural settings; now, therefore,
41

42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
43 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,



1 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested to
 2 implement the provisions of section 323F-25, Hawaii Revised
 3 Statutes, regarding the collaboration of community hospitals and
 4 community health centers; and

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 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
 7 Corporation is requested to develop a plan for certain rural
 8 hospitals, including Hale Ho'ola Hamakua, Ka'u Hospital, Kauai
 9 Veterans Memorial Hospital, Kohala Hospital, Kula Hospital,
 10 Lanai Community Hospital, and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital,
 11 to be recognized as federally qualified health centers; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
 14 Corporation is requested to report on its progress in promoting
 15 collaboration between community hospitals and community health
 16 centers and submit its plan for the designation of certain
 17 hospitals as federally qualified health centers to the
 18 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 19 the Regular Session of 2013; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Board of
 23 Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and the
 24 members of the Hawaii Health Authority.

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OFFERED BY:

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