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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING THE HAWAII HEALTH INFORMATION  
EXCHANGE AS THE ONLY FULLY OPERATIONAL, STATEWIDE HEALTH  
INFORMATION EXCHANGE OPERATING IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the establishment and development of health  
2 information exchanges within the nation have become increasingly  
3 significant in recent years and reflect the changing role  
4 technology plays in government and business operations; and  
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6           WHEREAS, public health experts and federal and state  
7 governments recognize the potential economic and health benefits  
8 of health information exchanges and similar electronic health  
9 initiatives and are searching for ways to further their growth;  
10 and  
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12           WHEREAS, the George W. Bush Administration previously  
13 pledged \$10,000,000,000 toward the development and  
14 implementation of health information technology; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the Obama Administration continued the promotion  
17 of health information technology with the enactment of the  
18 Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health  
19 (HITECH) Act, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment  
20 Act of 2009; and  
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22           WHEREAS, under the HITECH Act, the United States Department  
23 of Health and Human Services is spending \$25,900,000,000 to  
24 promote and expand the adoption of health information technology  
25 and meaningful use of electronic health records across the  
26 country; and  
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28           WHEREAS, these resources, which are viewed as a one-time  
29 investment, are providing a critical impetus to facilitate state  
30 health information exchange efforts, including those meeting  
31 health information exchange meaningful use requirements; and  
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1           WHEREAS, in March 2010, all fifty states, the District of  
2 Columbia, and the five United States territories received State  
3 Health Information Exchange (State HIE) Cooperative Agreement  
4 Program awards; and  
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6           WHEREAS, this federal program funds states' efforts to  
7 rapidly build capacity for exchanging health information across  
8 the health care system within and across states; and  
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10           WHEREAS, although the majority of the funding recipients  
11 elected to have a state government as the grantee, Hawaii was  
12 one of the states that chose to have a qualified private sector  
13 state-designated entity be the funding recipient and  
14 administrator for the federal grants; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange is a  
17 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2006 by  
18 Hawaii's leading health care stakeholders, and is governed by a  
19 broad stakeholder Board of Directors whose members include and  
20 represent: the Governor's Healthcare Transformation  
21 Coordinator, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of  
22 Medicine, public and private hospitals, independent physicians,  
23 community health centers, laboratories, pharmacists, health  
24 plans, businesses, and consumers in Hawaii; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the purpose of the Hawaii Health Information  
27 Exchange is to improve health care delivery across the State  
28 through a seamless, effective, safe, and secure health  
29 information exchange; and  
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31           WHEREAS, in September 2009, the Hawaii Health Information  
32 Exchange became the state-designated entity for implementing the  
33 statewide health information exchange that will ultimately feed  
34 into the nationwide eHealth Exchange technology network; and  
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36           WHEREAS, accordingly, the Hawaii Health Information  
37 Exchange received a \$5,602,318 State HIE Cooperative Agreement  
38 Program grant award from the federal government; was tasked with  
39 the challenge to implement and operationalize comprehensive  
40 statewide health information exchange services within and beyond  
41 the State; and was responsible for \$831,281 in matching state  
42 funds, which the Hawaii Health Information Exchange raised  
43 without state dollars; and  
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1           WHEREAS, as an existing independent legal entity, the  
2 Hawaii Health Information Exchange was able to utilize existing  
3 infrastructure to assist health care providers with  
4 electronically exchanging patient health information through a  
5 secure mechanism in compliance with Health Insurance Portability  
6 and Accountability Act regulations and deploy a robust, fully  
7 developed statewide clinical information exchange; and  
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9           WHEREAS, since receiving the State HIE Cooperative  
10 Agreement Program grant award, the Hawaii Health Information  
11 Exchange has been working directly with the federal Department  
12 of Health and Human Services Office of National Coordinator for  
13 Health Information Technology and the State's interagency Hawaii  
14 Healthcare Project Hawaii Health Information Technology  
15 Committee, including the Department of Health, Department of  
16 Human Services, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the  
17 Office of Information Management and Technology, and Hawaii's  
18 health care providers, to further develop Hawaii's health  
19 information exchange capabilities; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange has thrived  
22 and is meeting expectations under the State HIE Cooperative  
23 Agreement Program; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange started  
26 connecting health care providers to its network in 2012 and  
27 currently has connected over six hundred users and one hundred  
28 eighty physician practices, rural pharmacies, and large health  
29 care providers, including Castle Medical Center; Clinical  
30 Laboratories of Hawaii, LLP; Pan Pacific Pathologists, LLC;  
31 Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc.; Hawaii Pacific Health; and  
32 Hilo Medical Center; and  
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34           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange has begun  
35 to establish interfaces between providers and the Department of  
36 Health; and  
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38           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange also  
39 continues to implement data sharing and funding contracts with  
40 the State and private-sector stakeholders, including The Queen's  
41 Medical Center, Hawaii Medical Service Association, and Kaiser  
42 Permanente Hawaii Region; and  
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1 WHEREAS, as the State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program  
2 comes to an end, many state governments are looking to replicate  
3 Hawaii's model of establishing a joint commitment in partnership  
4 with a qualified state-designated entity to operate their  
5 statewide health information exchanges; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange, as the  
8 State's federal grant designee, has been subject to federal  
9 oversight for the duration of the State HIE Cooperative  
10 Agreement Program; and  
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12 WHEREAS, this federal oversight includes quarterly  
13 reporting requirements; development of a sustainability plan,  
14 governance structure, and privacy and security framework to  
15 ensure the safety of patient information and knowledge; annual  
16 financial audits; and a programmatic evaluation that must be  
17 submitted thirty days after the grant's period of performance in  
18 2014; and  
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20 WHEREAS, this body finds that the Hawaii Health Information  
21 Exchange, a private sector non-profit organization, has been  
22 successful as the exclusive service provider designated to work  
23 with the State to advance and support the health information  
24 exchange needs in Hawaii, including the ongoing implementation  
25 of the Hawaii Health Information Exchange's eHealth Exchange  
26 network that benefits health care providers and health plans;  
27 and  
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29 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Information Exchange has also  
30 served as a conduit between health care providers and the State  
31 for public health reporting; however, there is a need for a  
32 continued working relationship with and resources provided by  
33 the State to sustain these crucial services after the State HIE  
34 Cooperative Agreement Program ends in 2014; now, therefore,  
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
38 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Health  
39 Information Exchange is formally recognized and designated as  
40 the only fully operational, statewide health information  
41 exchange operating in the State of Hawaii; and  
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Information  
44 Exchange, as a partner with the Hawaii State Legislature and



1 Administration, continue to advance health care transformation  
2 initiatives, including the electronic exchange of health  
3 information; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
7 of Health, Director of Human Services, Chief Information Office,  
8 Insurance Commissioner, and the Hawaii Health Information  
9 Exchange.  
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