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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS  
THE SCOPE AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY  
SERVICES PATIENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that sick and vulnerable  
2 patients and their family members can easily become overwhelmed  
3 within the medical system, especially when emergency medical  
4 attention is necessary; and

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6           WHEREAS, patients may be unaware of their rights regarding  
7 the treatment and care they receive from their emergency room  
8 physicians; and

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10           WHEREAS, patients or family members may disagree with the  
11 diagnosis or treatment plan provided by the emergency room  
12 physicians, but they feel forced to accept the treatment plan  
13 despite their concerns because they are unaware of how to  
14 effectively exercise their rights to secure appropriate and  
15 available emergency medical care; and

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17           WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that a patient  
18 advocate is needed to assist in the effective case management  
19 of, and to enhance communication among, patients, family  
20 members, and health care providers in emergency situations; now,  
21 therefore,

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23           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
25 Session of 2014, that the Director of Health is urged to convene  
26 a task force to assess the scope and feasibility of establishing  
27 an emergency services patient advocate program to provide  
28 assistance to, and advocate on behalf of, patients receiving  
29 emergency medical care; and

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31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health or the  
32 director's designee serve as the chairperson of the task force;  
33 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the  
2 following members:

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- 4 (1) The Director of Health or the director's designee;
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  - 6 (2) Four representatives from the Healthcare Association  
7 of Hawaii, each of whom is to be a resident of one  
8 each of the following counties: City and County of  
9 Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Kauai, and  
10 County of Maui;
  - 11
  - 12 (3) Four representatives from the Statewide Health  
13 Coordinating Council established under section 323D-  
14 13, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
  - 15
  - 16 (4) Three community-patient members who shall be appointed  
17 by the Director of Health; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force:

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- 21 (1) Examine and identify current practices in emergency  
22 services patient advocacy;
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  - 24 (2) Assess and identify best practices in emergency  
25 services patient advocacy;
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  - 27 (3) Make recommendations on how to effectively implement  
28 an emergency services patient advocate program,  
29 including a timetable for implementation; and
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  - 31 (4) Determine the costs of implementing, and resources  
32 necessary to implement, an emergency services patient  
33 advocate program; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the task force be  
36 subject to Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because  
37 of that member's participation as a member of the task force;  
38 and




1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit a report  
2 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
3 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to  
4 the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include the task  
7 force's actions in assessing the scope and feasibility of  
8 establishing an emergency services patient advocate program; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be terminated on  
11 June 30, 2015; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, President  
15 and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of  
16 Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Statewide Health Coordinating  
17 Council.  
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OFFERED BY:   
Della A Reilly

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