
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STROKE CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the rapid
2 identification, diagnosis, and treatment of strokes can save the
3 lives of stroke patients and, in some cases, can reverse
4 neurological damage such as speech and language impairments or
5 paralysis, leaving stroke patients with few or no neurological
6 deficits. Despite significant advances in diagnosis, treatment,
7 and prevention, stroke is a leading cause of death nationally
8 and in Hawaii. An estimated 795,000 new and recurrent strokes
9 occur each year in this country. With the aging of the
10 population, the number of persons who have strokes is projected
11 to increase. Although treatments are available to improve the
12 clinical outcomes of stroke, acute care hospitals need
13 sufficient trained staff and equipment to optimally triage and
14 treat stroke patients. A system is needed in our communities to
15 ensure the provision of optimal, safe, and effective emergency
16 care in a timely manner to improve the overall treatment of
17 stroke patients in order to increase survival and decrease



1 incidents of disabilities associated with stroke. The
2 legislature further finds that the establishment of a stroke
3 coalition and a stroke database will build on the work and
4 infrastructure developed through S.C.R. No. 155 S.D. 1 (2013).

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
7 to read as follows:

8 "PART

9 STROKE CARE

10 § -1 Definitions. The following terms shall have the
11 meanings:

12 "Department" means the department of health.

13 "Stroke coalition" means a multi-organizational process of
14 public, private, and nonprofit organizations working together
15 for a common purpose to improve stroke outcomes throughout the
16 State.

17 § -2 Stroke system of care; department duties. The
18 department shall establish a systematic process to evaluate and
19 improve stroke care throughout the State to reduce death and
20 disability from stroke. The stroke system of care shall
21 include:



1 (1) The requirement that hospitals meet specific stroke
2 patient treatment capabilities that will ensure that
3 stroke patients receive safe and effective care;

4 (2) The development of the State's emergency medical
5 services system to ensure that stroke patients are
6 quickly identified, transported to, and treated in
7 facilities that have specialized programs for
8 providing timely and effective treatment for stroke
9 patients to improve outcomes; and

10 (3) The establishment of a statewide stroke coalition to
11 provide a mechanism to evaluate and improve stroke
12 care in the State.

13 **§ -3 Stroke coalition.** (a) The department shall
14 convene a stroke coalition to ensure sustainability of a process
15 and system to evaluate and develop effective statewide stroke
16 patient care. The stroke coalition shall:

17 (1) Identify issues related to early identification,
18 triage, treatment, and transport of possible acute
19 stroke patients;

20 (2) Facilitate the collection, analysis, and communication
21 of health information and data among the health care



1 professionals providing care for individuals with
2 stroke;

3 (3) Encourage sharing of information and data among health
4 care providers on ways to improve the quality of care
5 of stroke patients in this State;

6 (4) Develop and implement strategies to improve stroke
7 early identification and treatment, including
8 identifying specific hospital capabilities to receive,
9 treat, and transfer stroke patients;

10 (5) Establish an oversight process to assess and validate
11 hospital capabilities;

12 (6) Include statewide representation from government and
13 nonprofit and private healthcare entities that have a
14 role in reducing death and morbidities from stroke.

15 (b) The director of health shall be the chairperson of the
16 stroke coalition and shall select its other members, who shall
17 serve without compensation but be reimbursed for necessary
18 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
19 of their official duties.



1 § -4 **Stroke database.** The department shall establish a
2 stroke database to support evaluation of stroke care in the
3 State for performance improvement. The department shall:

- 4 (1) Utilize an existing nationally recognized and
5 validated data platform available to all participating
6 hospitals and that has features to maintain
7 confidentiality standards and data security.
8 Hospitals and emergency medical services agencies
9 shall report data consistent with nationally
10 recognized guidelines on the treatment of individuals
11 within the State with a suspected or confirmed stroke;
- 12 (2) Maintain a statewide stroke database that compiles
13 information and statistics on stroke care that aligns
14 with the consensus stroke metrics developed and
15 approved by national subject-matter organizations such
16 as the American Heart Association, American Stroke
17 Association, and the Brain Attack Coalition;
- 18 (3) Establish an oversight process to ensure data
19 integrity, quality, and security, timely collection,
20 and the generation of reports;



- 1 (4) Analyze data generated by the stroke database to
- 2 identify potential interventions to improve stroke
- 3 response and treatment; and
- 4 (5) Provide agreed upon state level reports of de-
- 5 identified and aggregated data to the stroke
- 6 coalition, government agencies, or contractors of
- 7 government agencies, hospitals, researchers, and other
- 8 interested parties that have a role in improving
- 9 stroke care.

10 § -5 Confidential information. This part shall not be
 11 construed to require disclosure of any confidential information
 12 or other data in violation of the federal and state privacy
 13 regulations."

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Allen A. Kuchta
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H.B. NO. 589

Report Title:

Strokes; Coalition; Database

Description:

Establishes a stroke coalition and a stroke database in the DOH.

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