SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH AND CONVENE A SEPSIS BEST PRACTICES GROUP.

WHEREAS, sepsis is a serious medical condition caused by an overwhelming immune response to bacterial infection, whereby immune chemicals released into the blood to combat infection trigger widespread inflammation; and

WHEREAS, sepsis can lead to shock, organ failure, and death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that sepsis kills more than 258,000 Americans each year and leaves thousands of survivors with life-changing after effects; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1,000,000 cases of sepsis in the United States each year, with sepsis being the ninth-leading cause of disease-related death in the nation; and

WHEREAS, patients hospitalized for sepsis or septicemia had longer lengths of stay and more than an eight-fold increase in in-hospital mortality than patients hospitalized for other diagnoses; and

WHEREAS, the recent outbreak of dengue fever in Hawaii County further necessitates heightened attention to sepsis, as dengue shock syndrome is a type of sepsis; and

WHEREAS, dengue shock syndrome occurs due to the dengue virus that causes abdominal pain, hemorrhage, and circulatory collapse or shock, which can cause multi-organ failure; and
WHEREAS, the threat of mortality for both septic shock and
dengue shock syndrome are higher in children and the elderly,
who have weaker immune systems; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Legislature recognized the
seriousness of sepsis and requested the convening of a task
force to recommend ways to reduce incidents of sepsis and
sepsis-related deaths in the State; and

WHEREAS, in its January 2015 report to the Legislature, the
State of Hawaii Sepsis Task Force "concluded that the optimal
approach to work towards early recognition of sepsis and
reducing sepsis deaths across the [S]tate is to regularly
convene experts from Hawaii's acute care hospitals in a Sepsis
Best Practice[s] Group"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
is requested to establish a Sepsis Best Practices Group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health invite
one physician champion and one administrative representative
from each of Hawaii's acute care hospitals to become members of
the Sepsis Best Practices Group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sepsis Best Practices Group
engage in the following tasks recommended by the State of Hawaii
Sepsis Task Force:

(1) Meet regularly to discuss best practices, educational
opportunities, and emerging federal sepsis policies
and regulations, as well as recommend implementation
of best practices, as necessary;

(2) Facilitate the performance of a sepsis improvement
needs-assessment within each facility so that
facilities can best determine resource allocation;

(3) Monitor the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
Services' consideration of National Quality Forum
measure #0500 and address the impact that the measure is likely to have on Hawaii hospitals if adopted;

(4) Work towards defining a more representative sepsis incidence baseline in the State through administrative or clinical data;

(5) Partner with each acute care hospital's associated critical access hospital to disseminate current best practices regarding early recognition and intervention in sepsis; and

(6) Encourage the adoption of sepsis educational materials and initiatives by facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and recommendations of the Sepsis Best Practices Group be considered, and incorporated as feasible, as part of a comprehensive plan to be developed by the Department of Health to combat sepsis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sepsis Best Practices Group is requested to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018.