
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION REGIONAL BOARDS FOR OAHU, EAST HAWAII, WEST HAWAII, AND KAUAI TO ASSESS THE AVAILABILITY OF LONG-TERM CARE BEDS IN EACH REGION AND ITS IMPACT ON WAIT TIMES FOR ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL BEDS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the impact of long-term
2 care services on individuals and families; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation provides
5 long-term care in each of its four regions, including two long-
6 term care facilities in the Oahu Region, two critical access
7 hospitals that provide long-term care in the Kauai Region, one
8 acute care facility and one critical access hospital that
9 provides long-term care in the West Hawaii Region, and one acute
10 care hospital and two critical access hospitals that provide
11 long-term care in the East Hawaii Region; and

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13 WHEREAS, reimbursements from insurers to the Hawaii Health
14 Systems Corporation for long-term care services vary by the type
15 of facility where the beds are located and in many cases do not
16 cover the costs of care; and

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18 WHEREAS, a lack of long-term care beds also affects acute
19 care hospitals when patients who no longer need an acute care
20 level of service cannot be placed in a more appropriate setting
21 and must remain on a waitlist to transition to intermediate or
22 skilled nursing levels of care; and

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24 WHEREAS, patients on waitlists continue to occupy acute
25 care beds, limiting the ability of acute care hospitals to admit
26 and treat new patients; and

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28 WHEREAS, the operating costs of an acute care bed are
29 expensive, but the reimbursement amounts for long-term care



1 patients are relatively low, and this differential can affect a
2 hospital's revenue; and

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4 WHEREAS, the waitlist problem was last comprehensively
5 studied in 2014, and a report by the Hawaii Health Information
6 Corporation found that in 2011 there were 7,055 waitlisted
7 patients representing a net annual loss to acute care hospitals
8 of approximately \$60,000,000, with approximately seventy percent
9 of waitlisted patients in The Queen's Medical Center, Maui
10 Memorial Medical Center, and Kuakini Hospital; and

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12 WHEREAS, in 2016, Oahu had a total capacity of 2,726 long-
13 term care beds; and

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15 WHEREAS, Leahi Hospital and Maluhia Long-Term Care Health
16 Center are two state-run long-term care facilities within the
17 Oahu region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; and

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19 WHEREAS, in 2016, Leahi Hospital had a long-term care bed
20 capacity of one hundred fifty-five beds and Maluhia Long-Term
21 Care Health Center had a long-term care bed capacity of one
22 hundred fifty-eight beds; and

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24 WHEREAS, for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Leahi Hospital had
25 an operating loss of \$9,073,968 and Maluhia Long-Term Care
26 Health Center had an operating loss of \$7,387,367; and

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28 WHEREAS, in recent years, Leahi Hospital and Maluhia Long-
29 Term Care Health Center have been forced to reduce staff
30 positions and temporarily halt new admissions to address
31 operating deficits; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that each of the Hawaii Health
36 Systems Corporation Regional Boards for Oahu, East Hawaii, West
37 Hawaii, and Kauai is requested to:

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39 (1) Assess how its respective public hospitals are
40 responsive to the need for long-term care placements
41 and how they mitigate the waitlist problem of acute
42 care hospitals; and
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1 (2) Develop recommendations regarding the effect of the
2 availability of long-term care beds on wait times for
3 acute care beds in its respective geographic areas;
4 and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the Hawaii Health
7 Systems Corporation Regional Boards for Oahu, East Hawaii, West
8 Hawaii, and Kauai is requested to submit a report of its
9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
11 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
15 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems
16 Corporation, and Chief Executive Officers of the Hawaii Health
17 Systems Corporation Oahu Region, East Hawaii Region, West Hawaii
18 Region, and Kauai Region.

