WHEREAS, collaborative care is a new method of psychiatric care delivery that allows a patient to receive psychiatric care in their family physician's office from a remotely located psychiatrist providing consultation to the patient's care manager who is located within the primary care practice; and

WHEREAS, data show a return on investment of approximately $6 per every dollar spent on collaborative care and a projected annual nationwide savings of $24,000,000,000 to $48,000,000,000, due largely to reduced emergency room visits and hospital admissions for medical conditions that would otherwise be neglected by psychiatric patients; and

WHEREAS, these data were found so compelling that on January 2, 2017, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services began paying for collaborative care services for Medicare patients; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of patients in need of psychiatric care in underserved areas of the State are covered by Medicaid or QUEST, rather than Medicare; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association and others, The Queen's Health Systems' Clinically Integrated Physician Network has developed and implemented its own collaborative care pilot program and has found that it has already realized improved outcomes and satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, legislation passed through both the House of Representatives and the Senate to require Hawaii Medicaid to cover collaborative care at the same rates as Medicare; and
WHEREAS, this coverage also requires Hawaii Medicaid or the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services to obtain approval from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to further expand implementation of collaborative care; and

WHEREAS, Med-QUEST has drafted a Medicaid expansion proposal, called the Hawaii Ohana Nui Project Expansion program; and

WHEREAS, the program is committed to exploring practices that further integrate physical and behavioral health services, like the collaborative care model; and

WHEREAS, the program explores the use of payments to primary care providers and members of the multidisciplinary team for providing integrated services using the collaborative care model; and

WHEREAS, these kinds of innovations envisioned by Med-QUEST, based on numerous studies showing that they are effective and save lives; reduce costs, resulting in personal, company, and taxpayer savings; and provide a welcome beacon of hope for improving the integrated health of Hawaii's citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Legislature supports the efforts of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, The Queen's Health Systems, and the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services, for the painstaking work they have performed on behalf of the health of the citizens of the State, to improve access to safe psychiatric care to underserved populations; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association Executive Council, the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Queen's Health Systems, and the Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

[Signatures]

MAR - 9 2018