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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**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  
18   incidents of disabilities associated with stroke. The



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

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

7 **"PART . STROKE CARE**

8 **§ -1 Definitions.** The following terms shall have the  
9 meanings:

10 "Department" means the department of health.

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

15 **§ -2 Stroke system of care; department duties.** The  
16 department shall establish a systematic process to evaluate and  
17 improve stroke care throughout the State to reduce death and  
18 disability from stroke. The stroke system of care shall  
19 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.



**Report Title:**

Strokes; Coalition; Database

**Description:**

Establishes a stroke coalition and a stroke database in the DOH.  
(SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

