
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 quality assurance
2 committees provide hospitals, health plans, long term care
3 facilities, and other healthcare organizations with a mechanism
4 to evaluate, monitor, and improve quality of care; reduce
5 patient risk and error; and assess the overall effectiveness of
6 care provided to patients. Quality assurance committees are
7 well established and essential to our healthcare delivery
8 system.

9 However, the legislature notes that there are two separate
10 and inconsistent definitions of "quality assurance committee" in
11 the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Because of this inconsistency,
12 quality assurance committees established by different types of
13 health care organizations may face different confidentiality and
14 liability protection provisions.

15 The purpose of this Act is to make the usage of the term
16 "quality assurance committee" consistent throughout the Hawaii
17 Revised Statutes.



1 Specifically, this Act amends the definition of "quality
2 assurance committee", for the purpose of liability protection,
3 to include:

4 (1) Committees established by long-term care facilities,
5 skilled nursing facilities, assisted living
6 facilities, home care agencies, and hospices and
7 authorized state agencies that perform the same
8 function; and

9 (2) Quality assurance committees established by multiple
10 health care providers,
11 in the same protections against civil liability applicable to
12 hospitals, clinics, and certain health insurance providers.

13 SECTION 2. Section 663-1.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

15 "(a) As used in this section:

16 "Ethics committee" means a committee that may be an
17 interdisciplinary committee appointed by the administrative
18 staff of a licensed hospital, whose function is to consult,
19 educate, review, and make decisions regarding ethical questions,
20 including decisions on life-sustaining therapy.



1 "Licensed health maintenance organization" means a health
2 maintenance organization licensed in Hawaii under chapter 432D.

3 "Peer review committee" means a committee created by a
4 professional society, or by the medical or administrative staff
5 of a licensed hospital, clinic, health maintenance organization,
6 preferred provider organization, or preferred provider network,
7 whose function is to maintain the professional standards of
8 persons engaged in its profession, occupation, specialty, or
9 practice established by the bylaws of the society, hospital,
10 clinic, health maintenance organization, preferred provider
11 organization, or preferred provider network of the persons
12 engaged in its profession or occupation, or area of specialty
13 practice, or in its hospital, clinic, health maintenance
14 organization, preferred provider organization, or preferred
15 provider network.

16 "Preferred provider organization" and "preferred provider
17 network" means a partnership, association, corporation, or other
18 entity which delivers or arranges for the delivery of health
19 services, and which has entered into a written service
20 arrangement or arrangements with health professionals, a



1 majority of whom are licensed to practice medicine or
2 osteopathy.

3 "Professional society" or "society" means any association
4 or other organization of persons engaged in the same profession
5 or occupation, or a specialty within a profession or occupation,
6 a primary purpose of which is to maintain the professional
7 standards of the persons engaged in its profession or occupation
8 or specialty practice.

9 "Quality assurance committee" means ~~[an]~~ :

- 10 (1) An interdisciplinary committee established by the
- 11 board of trustees or administrative staff of a
- 12 licensed hospital, clinic, long-term care facility,
- 13 skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility,
- 14 home care agency, hospice, health maintenance
- 15 organization, preferred provider organization, ~~[or]~~
- 16 preferred provider network~~[,]~~ providing medical,
- 17 dental, or optometric care, or an authorized state
- 18 agency whose function is to monitor and evaluate
- 19 patient care~~[, and]~~ to identify, study, and correct
- 20 deficiencies ~~[and seek improvements in the patient~~
- 21 ~~care delivery process.]~~ in the health care delivery



1 system, with a goal of reducing the risk of harm to
2 patients, improving patient safety, or otherwise
3 improving the quality of care delivered to patients;
4 or

5 (2) An interdisciplinary committee composed of
6 representatives of organizations described in
7 paragraph (1) that is established collectively by the
8 boards of trustees or administrative staff of these
9 organizations, and whose function is to monitor and
10 evaluate patient care to identify, study, and correct
11 deficiencies in the health care delivery system, with
12 a goal of reducing the risk of harm to patients,
13 improving patient safety, or otherwise improving the
14 quality of care delivered to patients."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Health; Quality Assurance Committees; Definition

Description:

Includes quality assurance committees established by long-term care, skilled nursing, and assisted living facilities, home care agencies, and hospices, as well as authorized state agencies established by multiple providers in generally-applicable civil liability protections. (HB1922 HD1)

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

