
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO
CONVENE A TEMPORARY TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES, OTHER
THAN THOSE HAVING TO DO WITH MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LIABILITY
AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS, THAT MAY PREVENT THE EXODUS OF
PHYSICIANS FROM THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, there has been widespread coverage in the local
2 media that many of Hawaii's physicians, particularly
3 specialists, have chosen to leave the State for various reasons;
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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature is very much aware of this trend
7 and of the assertions that medical malpractice liability and
8 costly medical malpractice insurance premiums are contributing
9 to this trend; and

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11 WHEREAS, the issue of medical malpractice insurance
12 premiums remains a topic of serious, extensive, and ongoing
13 discussions within the Legislature; and

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15 WHEREAS, however, the Legislature also wishes to uncover
16 and address additional potential reasons for the departure of
17 physicians from the State to fashion a more comprehensive
18 approach to the problem; and

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20 WHEREAS, for example, the State's geographic isolation as
21 the nation's only island state located in the middle of the
22 Pacific Ocean may act as a relative barrier to easy interstate
23 migration of professionals, including physicians; and

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25 WHEREAS, the issue of an alleged monopolistic underwriting
26 structure for reimbursement for physicians in the State has been
27 raised as a problem; and
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1 WHEREAS, the high cost of living in the State affects
2 everyone, including physicians earning relatively higher
3 incomes; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State to attain a
6 thorough understanding of the issues that may contribute to the
7 exodus of physicians from Hawaii to better fashion a
8 comprehensive and effective solution; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
13 and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce
14 Development Council are requested to convene a temporary task
15 force to examine strategies, other than those having to do with
16 medical malpractice liability and insurance premiums, that may
17 prevent the exodus of physicians from the State; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health and the
20 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce
21 Development Council are requested to include on the temporary
22 task force:
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- 24 (1) The Insurance Commissioner;
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- 26 (2) The Director of Human Services;
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- 28 (3) Physicians;
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- 30 (4) A representative from the Department of Commerce and
31 Consumer Affairs' licensing division;
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- 33 (5) A representative of the health insurance industry;
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- 35 (6) A representative of mutual benefit societies;
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- 37 (7) A representative of health maintenance organizations;
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- 39 (8) A representative of consumer attorneys;
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- 41 (9) A representative of the Hawaii Medical Association;
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- 43 (10) A representative of the general public; and
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1 (11) Any other members the Director of Health and the
2 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce
3 Development Council deem advisable; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health and the
6 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce
7 Development Council are requested to convene the task force no
8 later than October 1, 2007, and to terminate the task force on
9 September 30, 2008; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health and the
12 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce
13 Development Council are requested to submit findings and
14 recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation,
15 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
16 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Directors of Health
20 and Labor and Industrial Relations who, in turn, is requested to
21 notify physicians and representatives of the health insurance
22 industry, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance
23 organizations, and to the Director of Human Services, the
24 Consumer Lawyers of Hawaii, the Department of Labor and
25 Industrial Relations Workforce Development Council, and the
26 Insurance Commissioner.

