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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL  
EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF  
HAWAII'S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, access to knowledgeable and qualified medical  
2 doctors is arguably the single most important factor for people  
3 to live long and healthy lives; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique geography as an island chain poses  
6 difficulties for patients seeking to access medical doctors  
7 without incurring significant travel costs; and  
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9           WHEREAS, other states with access-to-care issues in  
10 isolated communities are exploring ways to ease difficulties for  
11 both patients and medical doctors, by using methods that allow  
12 both parties to travel no further than their own neighborhoods  
13 to interact; and  
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15           WHEREAS, one approach to the access problem in Hawaii would  
16 be to expand the State's telemedicine system, which is still in  
17 its infancy; and  
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19           WHEREAS, greater access to health care through telemedicine  
20 would extend medical information and physicians' care throughout  
21 the State, without requiring patients to leave their home  
22 island; and  
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24           WHEREAS, after telemedicine was first implemented in 1998  
25 by former Governor Benjamin Cayetano as a pilot project, it  
26 became clear, even in its earliest stage, that there are endless  
27 possibilities for telemedicine to change lives for the better;  
28 and  
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1 WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest for the residents  
2 of Hawaii to continue to explore the possibilities of expanding  
3 the current telemedicine system to encompass the State's twelve  
4 hospitals; now, therefore,

5  
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
9 Health is requested to form a task force to explore the  
10 feasibility of further implementation of the telemedicine  
11 systems so that citizens of Hawaii may benefit from it; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to  
14 direct the task force to examine the following issues:

- 15  
16 (1) Current use of telemedicine and equipment;  
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18 (2) Costs for expansion;  
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20 (3) Timeframe for full implementation of an expansion  
21 project; and  
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23 (4) Potential difficulties or problems that may arise  
24 during or after implementation; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in forming the task force, the  
27 Director of Health is requested to include:

- 28  
29 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;  
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31 (2) One member from the staff of the John A. Burns School  
32 of Medicine at the University of Hawaii;  
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34 (3) One member from the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;  
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36 (4) One member from a for-profit health care organization;  
37 and  
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39 (5) One member from a non profit hospital or health care  
40 organization; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
 2 requested to appoint all members of the task force no later than  
 3 thirty days after the adjournment sine die of the Regular  
 4 Session of 2008, and is requested to convene the initial meeting  
 5 of the task force within thirty days after appointment of its  
 6 members; and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
 9 required to provide necessary administrative, professional,  
 10 technical, and clerical support to the task force; and

11  
 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
 13 submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations  
 14 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
 15 convening of the Regular Session of 2009, and a final report of  
 16 its findings and recommendations, including any necessary  
 17 proposed legislation not later than twenty days prior to the  
 18 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

19  
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
 22 Director of Health, and the Chairperson of the Employer-Union  
 23 Health Benefits Trust Fund.

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OFFERED BY: Cindy Evans

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