
HOUSE 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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30 WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest for the residents
31 of Hawaii to continue to explore the possibilities of expanding



1 the current telemedicine system to encompass the State's twelve
2 hospitals; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2008, that the Department of Health is requested to
7 form a task force to explore the feasibility of further
8 implementation of the telemedicine systems so that citizens of
9 Hawaii may benefit from it; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
12 direct the task force to examine the following issues:

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14 (1) Current use of telemedicine and equipment;

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16 (2) Costs for expansion;

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18 (3) Timeframe for full implementation of an expansion
19 project; and

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21 (4) Potential difficulties or problems that may arise
22 during or after implementation; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in forming the task force, the
25 Director of Health is requested to include:

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27 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;

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29 (2) One member from the staff of the John A. Burns School
30 of Medicine at the University of Hawaii;

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32 (3) One member from the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;

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34 (4) One member from a for-profit health care organization;
35 and

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37 (5) One member from a non profit hospital or health care
38 organization; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
41 requested to appoint all members of the task force no later than



1 thirty days after the adjournment sine die of the Regular
2 Session of 2008, and is requested to convene the initial meeting
3 of the task force within thirty days after appointment of its
4 members; and

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

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

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

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OFFERED BY:

Cindy Evans

MAR 04 2008

