
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE'S TELEHEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO FORM 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 relatively new telemedicine system, to
17 include facilitation and coordination of cost effective health
18 care services and management of chronic diseases; and
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20 WHEREAS, greater access to health care through telemedicine
21 would extend medical information and physicians' care throughout
22 the state, without requiring patients to leave their home
23 island; and
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25 WHEREAS, after telemedicine was first implemented in 1998
26 by former Governor Benjamin Cayetano as a pilot project, it
27 became clear, even in its earliest stage, that there are endless
28 possibilities for telemedicine and associated health care
29 delivery to change lives for the better; and



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 and associated health care delivery
4 system to encompass the State's twelve hospitals; now,
5 therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
9 Session of 2008, that the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
10 School of Medicine's Telehealth Research Institute (TRI) is
11 requested to form a task force to explore the feasibility of
12 further implementation of the telemedicine system so that
13 citizens of Hawaii may benefit from it; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TRI is requested to direct the
16 task force to examine the following issues:

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18 (1) Current use of telemedicine and equipment;
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20 (2) Costs for expansion;
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22 (3) Timeframe for full implementation of an expansion
23 project;
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25 (4) Potential difficulties or problems that may arise
26 during or after implementation; and
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28 (5) Any broader issues addressed at the November 15, 2007,
29 Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Symposium, including:
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31 (A) Business models;
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33 (B) Reimbursement and funding;
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35 (C) Coordination and collaboration;
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37 (D) Added value and incentives; and
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39 (E) Political will and institutional leadership;

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41 and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in forming the task force, TRI
44 is requested to include:



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- 2 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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- 4 (2) The Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at
- 5 the University of Hawaii or the Dean's designee;
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- 7 (3) The President and Chief Operating Officer of the
- 8 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation or the President and
- 9 Chief Operating Officer's designee;
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- 11 (4) One member from a for-profit health care organization;
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- 13 (5) One member from a nonprofit hospital or health care
- 14 organization;
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- 16 (6) The Chairperson of the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative
- 17 Symposium steering committee or the Chairperson's
- 18 designee;
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- 20 (7) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care
- 21 Association or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
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- 23 (8) The President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical
- 24 Association's Psychiatric Rural Health Collaborative
- 25 or the President's designee;
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- 27 (9) The Director of Human Services of the Director's
- 28 designee;
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- 30 (10) The Executive Director of the American Telemedicine
- 31 Association or the Executive Director's designee;
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- 33 (11) The Director of the Telecommunication and Information
- 34 Policy Group or the Director's designee;
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- 36 (12) The Board President of the Hawaii Rural Health
- 37 Association or the Board President's designee;
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- 39 (13) The Executive Director of the Hepatitis Support
- 40 Network of Hawaii or the Executive Director's
- 41 designee; and
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- 43 (14) Any other person as determined by the Director of TRI;
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1 and

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3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
4 requested to appoint all members of the task force no later than
5 thirty days after the adjournment sine die of the Regular
6 Session of 2008, and is requested to convene the initial meeting
7 of the task force within thirty days after appointment of its
8 members; and

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

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
15 submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations
16 to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening
17 of the 2009 Regular Session, and a final report of its findings
18 and recommendations, including any necessary proposed
19 legislation, not later than 20 days prior to the convening of
20 the 2010 Regular Session; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
24 of Health, Director of Human Services, Chairperson of the
25 Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, Dean of the John A.
26 Burns School of Medicine, President and Chief Operating Officer
27 of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Chairperson of the
28 Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Symposium steering committee,
29 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association,
30 President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association,
31 Executive Director of the American Telemedicine Association,
32 Director of the Telecommunication and Information Policy Group,
33 Board President of the Hawaii Rural Health Association, and
34 Executive Director of the Hepatitis Support Network of Hawaii.

