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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELEMEDICINE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the expansion of  
2 internet-based telecommunications has revolutionized the ways  
3 that consumers acquire goods and services. In particular, the  
4 use of telemedicine services has radically expanded access to  
5 physicians and medical services for the people of Hawaii.

6           The legislature finds, however, that not all aspects of an  
7 increasingly global economy have kept up with the rapid changes  
8 that telecommunications has fostered. Recently, physicians  
9 offering telemedicine services have found that their medical  
10 malpractice insurance plans may not cover telemedicine services.

11           The purpose of this Act to clarify telemedicine as a  
12 practice of medicine, and to require insurers offering medical  
13 malpractice insurance coverage to also cover telemedicine  
14 services.

15           SECTION 2. Section 431:1-209, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

1           **"§431:1-209 General casualty insurance defined.** General  
2 casualty insurance includes vehicle insurance as defined in  
3 section 431:1-208, accident and health or sickness insurance as  
4 defined in section 431:1-205, and in addition is insurance:

5           (1) Against legal liability for the death, injury, or  
6           disability of any human being, or from damage to  
7           property;

8           (2) Of medical, hospital, surgical, and funeral benefits  
9           to persons injured, irrespective of legal liability of  
10          the insured, when issued with or supplemental to  
11          insurance against legal liability for the death,  
12          injury, or disability of human beings;

13          (3) Of the obligation accepted by, imposed upon, or  
14          assumed by employers under law for death, disablement,  
15          or injury to employees;

16          (4) Against loss or damage by burglary, theft, larceny,  
17          robbery, forgery, fraud, vandalism, malicious  
18          mischief, confiscation, or wrongful conversion,  
19          disposal, or concealment, or from any attempt of any  
20          of the foregoing; also insurance against loss or  
21          damage to moneys, coins, bullion, securities, notes,  
22          drafts, acceptances, or any other valuable papers or

- 1 documents, resulting from any cause, except while in  
2 the mail;
- 3 (5) Upon personal effects of individuals, by an all-risk  
4 type of policy commonly known as the personal property  
5 floater;
- 6 (6) Against loss or damage to glass and its appurtenances  
7 resulting from any cause;
- 8 (7) Against any liability and loss or damage to property  
9 resulting from accidents to or explosions of boilers,  
10 pipes, pressure containers, machinery, or apparatus;
- 11 (8) Against loss of or damage to any property of the  
12 insured resulting from the ownership, maintenance, or  
13 use of elevators, except loss or damage by fire;
- 14 (9) Against loss or damage to any property caused by the  
15 breakage or leakage of sprinklers, water pipes, or  
16 containers, or by water entering through leaks or  
17 openings in buildings;
- 18 (10) Against loss or damage resulting from failure of  
19 debtors to pay their obligations to the insured  
20 (credit insurance);
- 21 (11) Against loss of or damage to any domesticated or wild  
22 animal resulting from any cause (livestock insurance);

- 1 (12) Against loss of or damage to any property of the  
2 insured resulting from collision of any other object  
3 with such property, but not including collision to or  
4 by vessels, craft, piers, or other instrumentalities  
5 of ocean or inland navigation (collision insurance);
- 6 (13) Against legal liability of the insured, and against  
7 loss, damage, or expense incident to a claim of such  
8 liability, and including any obligation of the insured  
9 to pay medical, hospital, surgical, and funeral  
10 benefits to injured persons, irrespective of legal  
11 liability of the insured, arising out of the death or  
12 injury of any person, or arising out of injury to the  
13 economic interest of any person as the result of  
14 negligence in rendering expert, fiduciary, or  
15 professional service (malpractice insurance); provided  
16 that, liability insurance covering the professional  
17 services of a physician or surgeon shall include  
18 coverage for claims or losses relating to the practice  
19 of telemedicine meeting the requirements of section  
20 453-1.3;
- 21 (14) Against any contract of warranty or guaranty which  
22 promises service maintenance, parts replacement,

1 repair, money, or any other indemnity in the event of  
2 loss of or damage to a motor vehicle or any part  
3 thereof from any cause, including loss of or damage to  
4 or loss of use of the motor vehicle by reason of  
5 depreciation, deterioration, wear and tear, use,  
6 obsolescence, or breakage if made by a warrantor or  
7 guarantor who or which as such is doing an insurance  
8 business; provided that service contracts, as defined  
9 and meeting the requirements of chapter 481X, shall  
10 not be subject to chapter 431.

11 The doing or proposing to do any business in  
12 substance equivalent to the business described in this  
13 section in a manner designed to evade the provisions  
14 of this section is the doing of an insurance business;  
15 and

16 (15) Against any other kind of loss, damage, or liability  
17 properly the subject of insurance and not within any  
18 other class or classes or type of insurance as defined  
19 in sections 431:1-204 to 431:1-211, if such insurance  
20 is not contrary to law or public policy."

1 SECTION 3. Section 435C-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending the definition of "medical malpractice  
3 insurance" to read as follows:

4 ""Medical malpractice insurance" means insurance coverage  
5 against the legal liability of the insured and against loss,  
6 damage, or expense incident to a claim arising out of the death  
7 or injury of any person as the result of negligence or  
8 malpractice in rendering professional service by any licensed  
9 physician or hospital[-], including coverage for claims or  
10 losses relating to the practice of telemedicine meeting the  
11 requirements of section 453-1.3."

12 SECTION 4. Section 435E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending the definition of "physician" or "surgeon"  
14 to read as follows:

15 ""Physician" or "surgeon" means any person licensed to  
16 practice medicine or osteopathic medicine under chapter 453[+],  
17 or any professional corporation, partnership, or other entity  
18 whose stockholders or partners are comprised solely of persons  
19 licensed under chapter 453. The term shall also include any  
20 person exempt from licensure under section 453-2(b) (3) or 453-  
21 2(b) (6) practicing telemedicine meeting the requirements of  
22 section 453-1.3."

1 SECTION 5. Section 453-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§453-1 Practice of medicine defined.** For the purposes of  
4 this chapter the practice of medicine by a physician or an  
5 osteopathic physician includes the use of drugs and medicines,  
6 water, electricity, hypnotism, osteopathic medicine, or any  
7 means or method, or any agent, either tangible or intangible,  
8 for the treatment of disease in the human subject; provided that  
9 when a duly licensed physician or osteopathic physician  
10 pronounces a person affected with any disease hopeless and  
11 beyond recovery and gives a written certificate to that effect  
12 to the person affected or the person's attendant nothing herein  
13 shall forbid any person from giving or furnishing any remedial  
14 agent or measure when so requested by or on behalf of the  
15 affected person.

16 This section shall not amend or repeal the law respecting  
17 the treatment of those affected with Hansen's disease.

18 For purposes of this chapter, "osteopathic medicine" means  
19 the utilization of full methods of diagnosis and treatment in  
20 physical and mental health and disease, including the  
21 prescribing and administration of drugs and biologicals of all  
22 kinds, operative surgery, obstetrics, radiological, and other

1 electromagnetic emissions, and placing special emphasis on the  
2 interrelation of the neuro-musculoskeletal system to all other  
3 body systems, and the amelioration of disturbed structure-  
4 function relationships by the clinical application of the  
5 osteopathic diagnosis and therapeutic skills for the maintenance  
6 of health and treatment of disease.

7 The practice of medicine shall include the use of  
8 telemedicine meeting the requirements of section 453-1.3."

9 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2050.

12



**Report Title:**

Telehealth; Medicine and Surgery; Liability Insurance

**Description:**

Clarifies telehealth as a practice of medicine. Amends liability insurance provisions to allow for telehealth coverage under medical malpractice insurance. Effective 7/1/50. (SD1)

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