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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF TELEDENTISTRY FOR THE VULNERABLE AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, SUCH AS ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE AND COST EFFICIENCIES, AND TO IDENTIFY THE BARRIERS TO THE PRACTICE OF TELEDENTISTRY IN HAWAII

1           WHEREAS, telehealth refers to the use of technology to  
2 provide health care at a distance. The important and increasing  
3 role of telehealth in the delivery of health care has been  
4 recognized for decades; and

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6           WHEREAS, now States and dental institutions have studied  
7 and/or implemented the use of teledentistry to deliver oral  
8 health services, and evidence is emerging that these  
9 technologies can enhance the ability of the oral health delivery  
10 system to reach vulnerable and underserved populations. Many of  
11 these vulnerable and underserved populations reside in the areas  
12 that lack access to oral health care and specialty services.

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14           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a unique geographic  
15 topography that includes five main islands, where the majority  
16 of oral health professionals, including specialists reside and  
17 work on the island of Oahu; and

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19           WHEREAS, Teledentistry can be an effective way to improve  
20 access to oral health care; and

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22           WHEREAS, this new care delivery model can provide a much  
23 needed community based "virtual dental home" for the State's  
24 most vulnerable and underserved populations, who will access  
25 dental services in their own communities. It also will remove  
26 some of the barriers to receiving care in a traditional dental  
27 office setting. This model allows dentists and dental hygienists  
28 working in community sites to connect with a dental home in  
29 private dentist's offices and in public health settings; and

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1           WHEREAS, equipped with the latest portable imaging  
2 equipment, community based oral health professionals collect  
3 electronic dental records such as X-rays, photographs and dental  
4 and medical histories, and upload the information to a secure  
5 website where they are reviewed by a collaborating dentist. The  
6 dentist reviews the patient's information and creates a  
7 tentative dental treatment plan. After the remote examinations,  
8 dental hygienists may perform preventive procedures in the  
9 community and track and refer those people who need to be seen  
10 in the dental office; and

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12           WHEREAS, the "virtual dental home" is an innovative example  
13 of one of the many ways technology can improve the delivery of  
14 dental care services; now, therefore,

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16           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
17 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
18 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
19 Health is requested to establish a task force to study the  
20 potential benefits of teledentistry for the vulnerable and  
21 underserved populations, such as access to dental care and cost  
22 efficiencies, and identify barriers to the practice of  
23 teledentistry in the State of Hawaii; and

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25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health's  
26 Director, or the Director's designee, is requested to serve as  
27 chair of the task force; and

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29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director, or the Director's  
30 designee is requested to solicit representatives from the  
31 following entities to serve on the task force, provided that  
32 those persons designated shall have the appropriate dental  
33 background and knowledge of the existing dental care issues in  
34 the State and within their respective organizations:

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36           (1) Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division;  
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38           (2) Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hawaii  
39           Dental Board of Examiners;  
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41           (3) University of Hawaii, Dental Hygiene School;  
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43           (4) Hawaii Dental Association;  
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- 1 (5) Hawaiian Islands Oral Health Task Force;
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- 3 (6) Hawaii Dental Service, Hawaii Medical Service
- 4 Association, Kaiser Permanente (Hawaii), and other
- 5 dental insurers;
- 6
- 7 (7) Hawaii Primary Care Association;
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- 9 (8) House Committee of Health;
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- 11 (9) House Committee of Consumer Protection and Commerce;
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- 13 (10) Senate Committee of Health;
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- 15 (11) Senate Committee of Commerce and Consumer Protection;
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- 17 (12) Any other individuals or entities that may contribute
- 18 to the task force; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force are  
21 requested to serve without compensation for time associated with  
22 task force activities; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
25 submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no  
26 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
27 Session of 2015; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; President of the  
31 Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Attorney  
32 General; Director, Department of Health; Director, Department of  
33 Human Services; Director, Department of Commerce and Consumer  
34 Affairs; Chairperson, Hawaii Dental Board of Examiners;  
35 Chairperson, University of Hawaii, Dental Hygiene School;  
36 President, Hawaii Dental Association; Hawaiian Islands Oral  
37 Health Task Force, and other County Oral Task Forces; President,  
38 Hawaii Dental Service; President Hawaii Medical Service  
39 Association; President Kaiser Permanente (Hawaii); Chief  
40 Executive Officer, Hawaii Primary Care Association; Chairperson,  
41 House Committee of Health; Chairperson, House Committee of  
42 Consumer Protection and Commerce; Chairperson, Senate Committee  
43 of Health; and Chairperson, Senate Committee of Commerce and  
44 Consumer Protection.

H.C.R. NO. 16

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OFFERED BY:   
By Request

JAN 21 2014