
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF TELEDENTISTRY FOR
VULNERABLE AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS IN THE STATE AND TO
IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO THE PRACTICE OF TELEDENTISTRY IN THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, telehealth, the delivery of health-related
2 services and information via telecommunications technologies,
3 has an important and increasing role in the delivery of health
4 care; and

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6 WHEREAS, states and dental institutions have studied and
7 implemented the use of teledentistry to deliver oral health
8 services; and

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10 WHEREAS, evidence is emerging that telehealth technologies
11 can enhance the ability of the oral health delivery system to
12 reach vulnerable and underserved populations, many of whom
13 reside in areas that lack access to oral health care and
14 specialty services; and

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16 WHEREAS, the majority of oral health professionals,
17 including specialists, reside and work on the island of Oahu;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, teledentistry can be an effective way to improve
21 access to oral health care by removing some of the barriers to
22 receiving care in a traditional dental office setting, allowing
23 dentists and dental hygienists working in community sites to
24 connect with a dental home in private dentists' offices or
25 public health settings; and

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27 WHEREAS, this new health care delivery model can provide a
28 community-based "virtual dental home" for the State's most
29 vulnerable and underserved populations by enabling them and
30 others to access dental services in their own communities; and



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
4 dental and medical histories, and upload the information to a
5 secure website where they are reviewed by a collaborating
6 dentist, who reviews the patient's information and creates a
7 tentative dental treatment plan; and
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9 WHEREAS, after the remote examinations, dental hygienists
10 may perform preventive procedures in the community and track and
11 refer those people who need to be seen in the dental office; and
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13 WHEREAS, the "virtual dental home" is an innovative example
14 of one of the many ways technology can improve the delivery of
15 dental care services; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
20 Health is requested to establish a task force to study the
21 potential benefits of teledentistry for vulnerable and
22 underserved populations in the State, including access to dental
23 care and cost effectiveness, and identify barriers to the
24 practice of teledentistry in the State; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the
27 Director's designee, is requested to serve as the chair of the
28 task force; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the
31 Director's designee, is requested to solicit representatives
32 from the following entities to serve on the task force:
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- 34 (1) Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division;
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- 36 (2) Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hawaii
37 Dental Board of Examiners;
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- 39 (3) University of Hawaii, Dental Hygiene School;
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- 41 (4) Hawaii Dental Association;
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- 43 (5) Hawaiian Islands Oral Health Task Force;



- 1 (6) Hawaii Dental Service;
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3 (7) Hawaii Medical Service Association;
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5 (8) Kaiser Permanente (Hawaii);
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7 (9) Hawaii Primary Care Association;
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9 (10) House Committee on Health;
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11 (11) House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce;
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13 (12) Senate Committee on Health;
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15 (13) Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection;
16 and
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18 (14) Any other individuals or entities that may contribute
19 to the task force;
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21 provided that any individual who serves on the task force shall
22 have appropriate dental background and knowledge of the existing
23 dental care issues in the State and within their respective
24 organizations; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force will
27 serve without compensation for their time associated with task
28 force activities; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
31 submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
32 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
33 of 2015; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; President
37 of the Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Attorney
38 General; Director of Health; Director of Human Services;
39 Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Chairperson of the
40 Hawaii Board of Dental Examiners; Dean of the University of
41 Hawaii School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene; President of the
42 Hawaii Dental Association; Hawaiian Islands Oral Health Task
43 Force, and other County Oral Health Task Forces; President and
44 Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Dental Service; President of



1 Hawaii Medical Service Association; President of Kaiser
2 Permanente (Hawaii); Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
3 Primary Care Association; Chairperson of the House Committee on
4 Health; Chairperson of the House Committee on Consumer
5 Protection and Commerce; Chairperson of the Senate Committee on
6 Health; and Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Commerce and
7 Consumer Protection.

