

JAN 25 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR AN ECHO PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that rural populations do
2 not have sufficient access to treatment for chronic, common, and
3 complex diseases that require specialty health care providers.

4 The legislature further finds that a knowledge-on-demand
5 model of telehealth care has been developed, known as Project
6 ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), which can
7 assist in diagnosing and successfully treat many chronic
8 illnesses and conditions, including HIV. ECHO has enormous
9 potential as an affordable healthcare intervention in rural
10 communities where certain chronic diseases have reached epidemic
11 levels and where healthcare resources and personnel are scarce.

12 The legislature further finds that ECHO educates, trains,
13 and supports rural general practitioners or other available
14 healthcare representatives on the best practice treatment
15 protocols for complex diseases. ECHO focuses on the principles
16 of care-based learning and disease management using internet-



S.B. NO. 1045

1 based technologies such as web video conferencing to co-manage
 2 patients in community-based practices. The ultimate goal of
 3 ECHO is to provide the same level of healthcare to rural
 4 patients with chronic diseases as can be obtained in an urban
 5 setting.

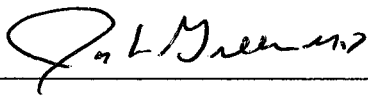
6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
 7 department of health to implement and administer an ECHO
 8 program.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 13 2018-2019 to implement and administer an ECHO program to connect
 14 urban medical center disease experts with rural general and
 15 community health representatives using internet-based
 16 technologies, as described in section 1 of this Act.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 18 of health for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1045

Report Title:

Healthcare; Rural Health; Telemedicine; ECHO Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to the department of health to implement and administer an ECHO program to provide the same level of healthcare to rural patients with chronic diseases as can be obtained in an urban setting.

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