
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE
FEASIBILITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CREATING A HEALTH POLICY
INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.

1 WHEREAS, good health is critical to an individual's
2 wellbeing and a community's overall welfare; however, nearly a
3 third of all adults in the United States and a quarter of adults
4 in Hawaii are obese and many more suffer from other types of
5 chronic ailments; and

6
7 WHEREAS, preventable chronic conditions such as obesity
8 result in further health complications such as diabetes,
9 cardiovascular disease, and cancer that lead to increased and
10 avoidable health care spending; and

11
12 WHEREAS, as a consequence of the high prevalence of these
13 types of chronic conditions, the United States spent \$3.6
14 trillion on health care in 2018, which amounts to \$11,172 per
15 person and 17.7 percent of the nation's gross domestic product;
16 and

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18 WHEREAS, although Hawaii's spending on health care is
19 \$7,299 per person, which is among the lowest in the country, and
20 the State consistently ranks among the top states in the country
21 for life expectancy, the cost of health care in Hawaii continues
22 to grow at an unsustainable rate, threatening the livelihoods of
23 families and the viability of businesses; and

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25 WHEREAS, concerns about the soaring cost of health care led
26 to the creation of an All-Payer Claims Database, through Act
27 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, which aggregates statewide
28 health care spending data to help policymakers understand the
29 drivers of soaring health care costs in Hawaii; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Legislature also established the Health
32 Analytics Program within the Department of Human Services' Med-



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1 QUEST Division through Act 55, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, to
2 leverage federal funds to further the goals and objectives of
3 the All-Payer Claims Database; and
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5 WHEREAS, now, with much of the groundwork laid, the time
6 has come to begin utilizing this trove of information by
7 analyzing data, digesting information, and transforming results
8 into informed policy decisions; and
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10 WHEREAS, one such way to accomplish this would be through
11 the creation of a Health Policy Institute that would bring
12 together key stakeholders, provide an open forum for data-driven
13 discussions, and generate innovative policy proposals; and
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15 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of
16 Social Sciences has a proven track record of bringing together
17 subject matter experts to help translate academic research into
18 feasible and effective policy solutions; and
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20 WHEREAS, in particular, the Collect of Social Sciences'
21 Pacific Health Informatics and Data Center and Office for
22 Evaluation and Needs Assessments Services have long histories of
23 using data-driven methods and analyses to generate translational
24 research; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
28 2020, that a working group be convened to examine the
29 feasibility and economic impact of creating a Health Policy
30 Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group's work is
33 requested to include but not be limited to:
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- 35 (1) The scope of health policy concerns in Hawaii and how
36 these concerns may be addressed through the creation
37 of a Health Policy Institute;
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39 (2) A study of health policy institute models from other
40 states or nations;



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- 1 (3) An evaluation of how the Health Policy Institute would
2 work with other state agencies or health-related
3 entities, including an assessment of existing
4 capabilities and deficiencies;
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- 6 (4) An assessment of Hawaii's spending on social health
7 policy and other relevant expenditures, and a forecast
8 on how those expenditures may rise in light of an
9 aging population and workforce;
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- 11 (5) The identification and analysis of options to enhance
12 capacity in health informatic and analytics in the
13 State;
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- 15 (6) A review and assessment of providing third-party
16 research and evaluation for state agencies; and
17
- 18 (7) A proposed structure, organization, mission, and
19 vision for the Health Policy Institute; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
22 to include the following members, or their designees:
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- 24 (1) The Dean of the College of Social Sciences at the
25 University of Hawaii at Manoa, who is requested to
26 serve as co-chair of the working group;
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- 28 (2) The Director of the UHealthy Hawaii Initiative of the
29 University of Hawaii, who is requested to serve as
30 co-chair of the working group;
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- 32 (3) The Director of the University of Hawaii Cancer
33 Center;
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- 35 (4) The Director of the University of Hawaii's College of
36 Social Sciences Public Policy Center;
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- 38 (5) The Director of the University of Hawaii's College of
39 Social Sciences' Social Science Research Institute;
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- 41 (6) The Director of Health;



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1 (7) The Director of Human Services; and

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3 (8) Any other individuals the co-chairs recommend; and

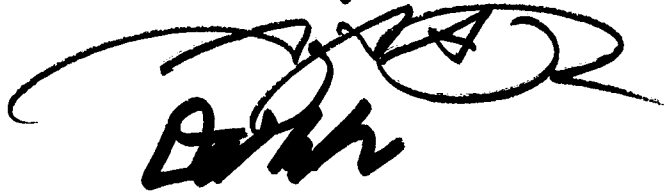
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
6 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
7 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
8 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
9 of 2021; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
12 to dissolve on June 30, 2021; and

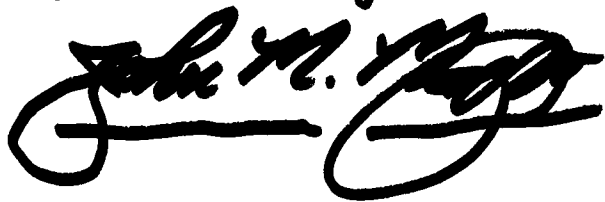
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to Dean of the College of Social
16 Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Director of the
17 UHealthy Hawaii Initiative of the University of Hawaii, Director
18 of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, Director of the
19 University of Hawaii's College of Social Sciences Public Policy
20 Center, Director of the University of Hawaii's College of Social
21 Sciences' Social Science Research Institute, Director of Health,
22 and Director of Human Services.

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OFFERED BY: Debra A. Bellotti



B. J. K. K.



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