
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department
2 of health for administrative purposes a rural health task force.
3 The task force shall consist of the following members:
4 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,
5 who shall serve as the chairperson;
6 (2) The rural health coordinator of the office of primary
7 care and rural health of the department of health;
8 (3) The supervisor of the Maui public health nursing
9 section of the department of health, or the
10 supervisor's designee;
11 (4) The supervisor of the Molokai public health nursing
12 office of the department of health, or the
13 supervisor's designee;
14 (5) The supervisor of the Lanai public health nursing
15 office of the department of health, or the
16 supervisor's designee; and



1 (6) One representative from each of the following
2 federally qualified health care centers and rural
3 health care facilities, to be invited by the
4 chairperson:

- 5 (A) Hana Health;
6 (B) Molokai General Hospital;
7 (C) Lanai Community Health Center;
8 (D) Malama I Ke Ola Health Center; and
9 (E) Molokai Community Health Center.

10 (b) The task force shall prepare and develop solutions
11 for, and make recommendations regarding, the recruitment of
12 registered nurses, accountability and management of registered
13 nurse retention, and facility-specific needs for the health care
14 sector in rural areas of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. The task
15 force shall base its plans and solutions on studies and data
16 related to improving the recruitment of registered nurses in
17 rural areas and retention of registered nurses based on a nurse-
18 to-patient ratio. The duties of the task force shall include
19 but are not limited to:

- 20 (1) Considering the needs of rural health care facilities
21 in Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;



- 1 (2) Managing the ratio of registered nurses to patients in
2 each rural health care facility in Maui, Molokai, and
3 Lanai;
- 4 (3) Developing recommendations for affordable workforce
5 housing to manage retention of registered nurses;
- 6 (4) Surveying the demand for telehealth-based medical
7 direction;
- 8 (5) Considering further retention options, including
9 travel nurses;
- 10 (6) Analyzing the impact that nurse retention has on rural
11 health care facilities; and
- 12 (7) Researching current best practices for retaining
13 registered nurses.
- 14 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without
15 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and
16 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in
17 carrying out their official duties pursuant to this Act.
- 18 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
19 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the regular session of 2023.



1 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2023.

2 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



Report Title:

Department of Health; Rural Health; Task Force; Registered Nurses; Nurse Retention; Recruitment

Description:

Establishes the Rural Health Task Force within the Department of Health to prepare and develop solutions and make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Requires the Rural Health Task Force to submit a report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2023. Effective 7/1/2060. (SD1)

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