
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that during the
2 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Pacific Islander
3 communities have been affected by COVID-19 at higher numbers
4 than any other community of color in the State. Compact of Free
5 Association benefit recipients have been particularly adversely
6 impacted. Unfortunately, many Compact of Free Association
7 benefit recipients have experienced prejudice and discrimination
8 in the health care system and no longer use medical facilities
9 as a first option to treat illnesses. Compact of Free
10 Association benefit recipients instead use these facilities as
11 an option of last resort that often results in a much more
12 severe prognosis than if the patient had received treatment at
13 an earlier stage.

14 The legislature further finds that, with the reinstatement
15 of the medicaid and children's health insurance program by the
16 United States Congress on December 20, 2020, Compact of Free
17 Association benefit recipients are now able to participate in



1 medicaid and will no longer be a part of the largely uninsured
2 population in Hawaii. In 2018, the United States Census Bureau
3 estimated the number of Compact of Free Association benefit
4 recipients in the State to be approximately sixteen thousand
5 persons. Therefore, investing in programs to bridge the
6 cultural and language gaps between health care providers and
7 Compact of Free Association benefit recipients, as well as other
8 communities with similar cultural and language barriers, will
9 help to alleviate the financial burden on the State and mitigate
10 revenue loss by medical facilities that provide service and care
11 for individuals who are uninsured.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

13 (1) Require that the Hawaii health systems corporation
14 convene a task force to facilitate improved, mission-
15 driven hiring and training of culturally-accepted
16 interpreters and create culturally-accepted
17 educational materials on preventative care and early
18 intervention to assist non-English speaking
19 populations seeking care at health care facilities;
20 and



1 (2) Appropriate moneys to support the work of the task
2 force.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii health systems corporation
4 shall convene a task force to facilitate improved, mission-
5 driven hiring and training of culturally-accepted interpreters
6 and create culturally-accepted educational materials on
7 preventative care and early intervention to assist non-English
8 speaking populations seeking care at health care facilities.
9 The task force shall include the following members:

- 10 (1) The chief executive officer of the Hawaii health
11 systems corporation, who shall serve as chair;
- 12 (2) The director of health, or the director's designee;
- 13 (3) The director of human services, or the director's
14 designee;
- 15 (4) One representative from The Queen's Health Systems,
16 who shall be invited to participate by the chair;
- 17 (5) One representative from the office of language access;
- 18 (6) Two members of the senate, to be appointed by the
19 president of the senate;



1 (7) Two members of the house of representatives, to be
2 appointed by the speaker of the house of
3 representatives; and

4 (8) Four Compact of Free Association community leaders,
5 who shall be invited to participate by the chair.

6 (b) The members of the task force shall not be compensated
7 for their service on the task force but may be reimbursed for
8 reasonable expenses, including travel expenses, incurred for
9 serving on the task force. No member shall be made subject to
10 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
11 member's participation as a member of the task force.

12 (c) The task force, with the assistance of the Hawaii
13 health systems corporation and the department of health, shall
14 submit a written report of its findings and recommendations,
15 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
17 of 2024. The task force shall be dissolved on June 30, 2024.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to



1 support the work of the task force established in section 2 of
2 this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii health
4 systems corporation for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
6 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
7 2050.



Report Title:

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; Diversity and Inclusion;
Interpreters; Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Creates a task force focused on the hiring and training of
culturally-accepted interpreters to assist non-English speaking
populations seeking care at health care facilities.
Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

