

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that accessing care is
2 often complicated for neighbor island residents. Most of the
3 State's specialty practices are located on O'ahu, since many
4 medical specialists are unwilling to practice in underserved
5 rural areas of the State. This inherent barrier to accessing
6 care underscores the severe need for comprehensive health care
7 coordination on the neighbor islands.

8 The legislature further finds that the department of
9 health's office of primary care and rural health, in partnership
10 with community organizations such as Community First, conducted
11 a community health needs assessment for Hawai'i Island titled
12 "Access to Care -- Health for Our Communities". The assessment
13 analyzes 3,287 resident survey responses and identifies delays
14 in health care delivery as residents' greatest obstacle to care.
15 Nearly six in ten respondents report delays, often due to
16 limited availability of specialists practicing on O'ahu.



1 The legislature further finds that larger societal concerns
2 such as affordable housing, the State's high cost of living,
3 transportation difficulties, and child care challenges are
4 barriers to care disproportionately affecting residents of
5 underserved rural areas. To ensure health equity, the State
6 must look beyond the symptoms of social determinants of health
7 to address the root causes of negative health outcomes
8 disproportionately affecting rural communities, low-income
9 communities, communities of color, and sexual and gender
10 minorities.

11 The legislature further finds that coordinated efforts at
12 all levels are necessary to examine social determinants
13 impacting a community's access to health care resources and
14 improve public health. The establishment of a strong health
15 network in underserved areas would allow these areas to
16 efficiently develop a health care plan encompassing preventative
17 and primary health care, specialty care, and urgent and
18 emergency care. On Hawai'i Island, a comprehensive plan to align
19 health care priorities with existing resources will foster
20 collaboration between providers, avoid service duplication,



1 streamline care delivery for the island's most vulnerable
2 residents, and serve as a model for other counties.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require the office of primary
4 care and rural health to establish and administer a pilot
5 program to collaboratively address the health and wellness needs
6 of Hawai'i county's most underserved residents and facilitate
7 discussions between key Hawai'i county community health and
8 social service organizations to develop a 2030 one shared health
9 vision plan for Hawai'i county.

10 SECTION 2. (a) The office of primary care and rural
11 health shall establish and administer a pilot program to
12 collaboratively address the health and wellness needs of Hawai'i
13 county's most underserved residents and facilitate discussions
14 between key Hawai'i county community health and social service
15 organizations to develop a 2030 one shared health vision plan
16 for Hawai'i county that aligns with appropriate providers' goals
17 and objectives.

18 (b) The office of primary care and rural health shall
19 submit the 2030 one shared health vision plan required by
20 subsection (a), including any proposed long-term legislative



S.B. NO. 759

1 grant-in-aid requests, to the legislature no later than twenty
2 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2024-2025 for the pilot program established pursuant to
8 section 2 of this Act.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
10 primary care and rural health for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

12

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 759

Report Title:

Office of Primary Care and Rural Health; Pilot Program; 2030 One Shared Health Vision Plan; Hawaii County; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health to establish and administer a pilot program to collaboratively address the health and wellness needs of Hawai'i County's most underserved residents and develop a 2030 One Shared Health Vision Plan. Requires the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health to submit the plan to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

