
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:

4 (1) Require the office of primary care and rural health to
5 establish and administer a pilot program to
6 collaboratively address the health and wellness needs
7 of Hawai'i county's most underserved residents and
8 facilitate discussions between key Hawai'i county
9 community health and social service organizations to
10 develop a 2030 one shared health vision plan for
11 Hawai'i county; and

12 (2) Appropriate funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0
13 FTE) program specialist IV position within the
14 department of health's family health services
15 division.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The office of primary care and rural
17 health shall establish and administer a pilot program to
18 collaboratively address the health and wellness needs of Hawai'i
19 county's most underserved residents and facilitate discussions
20 between key Hawai'i county community health and social service
21 organizations to develop a 2030 one shared health vision plan



1 for Hawai'i county that aligns with appropriate providers' goals
2 and objectives.

3 (b) The office of primary care and rural health shall
4 submit the 2030 one shared health vision plan required by
5 subsection (a), including any proposed long-term legislative
6 grant-in-aid requests, to the legislature no later than twenty
7 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2024-2025 for the establishment of one permanent full-time
13 equivalent (1.0 FTE) program specialist IV position within the
14 department of health's family health services division to:

- 15 (1) Oversee the development of community plans; and
- 16 (2) Coordinate efforts across departments and nonprofit
17 community partners to address the social determinants
18 of health and health equity issues affecting
19 underserved rural areas statewide;

20 provided that the funds shall support travel and activities
21 necessary for the development of the community plans.



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

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



Report Title:

Office of Primary Care and Rural Health; Pilot Program; 2030 One Shared Health Vision Plan; Hawaii County; Family Health Services Division; Department of Health; Positions; 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 for the establishment of one permanent full-time equivalent program specialist IV position within the Department of Health's Family Health Services Division. (SD1)

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