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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND BOARD OF PHARMACY TO SUPPORT THE LANAI COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER'S TELEPHARMACY PILOT DEMONSTRATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT AS A METHOD OF EXPANDING THE ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, the State's federally qualified health centers  
2 (FQHCs) provide safety net services to underinsured and  
3 uninsured individuals throughout Hawaii; and  
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5           WHEREAS, these services include the provision of low-cost  
6 prescription drugs through the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program  
7 (340B); and  
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9           WHEREAS, state law prohibits the filling, compounding, or  
10 receipt of prescription drugs unless a registered pharmacist is  
11 personally and immediately in charge of the pharmacy; and  
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13           WHEREAS, because the number of patients of some neighbor  
14 island health centers is too small to make employing a full-time  
15 pharmacist cost-effective, these health centers provide pharmacy  
16 services through contract pharmacies; and  
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18           WHEREAS, this solution presents complications because of  
19 the small populations of certain neighbor island communities;  
20 and  
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22           WHEREAS, for example, the only FQHC on the island of Lanai  
23 must contract with a pharmacy on the island of Maui for 340B  
24 pharmacy services; and  
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26           WHEREAS, nevertheless, one FQHC situated in a rural area  
27 with a small population desires to add pharmacist services to  
28 those already offered to patients; and  
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# H.R. NO. 124

1           WHEREAS, in January 2021, the Lanai Community Health Center  
2 (LCHC) received the approval of the Board of Pharmacy to conduct  
3 a pilot demonstration and research project for innovative  
4 applications in the practice of pharmacy; and  
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6           WHEREAS, under this project, a licensed pharmacist located  
7 on the island of Maui supervised LCHC staff working at LCHC's  
8 campus on the island of Lanai via two-way, real-time,  
9 audiovisual telecommunications in the receipt, filling, and  
10 dispensing of prescriptions to patients at the LCHC campus; and  
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12           WHEREAS, before the pilot project began, the Board of  
13 Pharmacy required LCHC to obtain a pharmacy license for its LCHC  
14 campus, which necessitated review, inspection, and prior  
15 approval by the Board and the Department of Public Safety's  
16 Narcotics Enforcement Division to ensure that all controlled  
17 substances were adequately secured and monitored at all times;  
18 and  
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20           WHEREAS, the LCHC telepharmacy pilot project commenced on  
21 June 9, 2022, processing 5,838 total prescriptions for 1,124  
22 patients under the pilot project, or a monthly average of 486.5  
23 prescriptions processed as of June 15, 2023; and  
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25           WHEREAS, these patients received their prescriptions and  
26 refills more quickly than if they had needed to wait for the  
27 medications to arrive through the mail; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the medications were also less expensive because  
30 of LCHC's participation in 340B; and  
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32           WHEREAS, because the only retail pharmacy on Lanai is not a  
33 340B participant, the discounts would not otherwise have been  
34 available; and  
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36           WHEREAS, on June 15, 2023, the Board of Pharmacy informed  
37 LCHC that the statutory authority for the Board to conduct the  
38 pilot project was not absolute and that at some point, state law  
39 must be amended to authorize telepharmacy; and  
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# H.R. NO. 124

1 WHEREAS, based on the success and beneficial results of the  
2 pilot project, the innovative practice of telepharmacy should be  
3 made permanent and authorized statutorily; now, therefore,  
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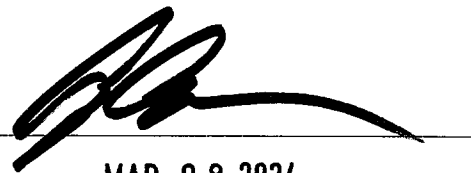
5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
7 Session of 2024, that the Governor and Board of Pharmacy are  
8 urged to support the Lanai Community Health Center's  
9 telepharmacy pilot demonstration and research project as a  
10 method of expanding the accessibility and affordability of  
11 prescription drugs to vulnerable populations and rural  
12 communities throughout the State; and  
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of  
15 Pharmacy is requested to report on the LCHC's telepharmacy pilot  
16 demonstration and research project, including expressing an  
17 official position on whether the Board recommends that  
18 telepharmacy be authorized statutorily; and  
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of  
21 Pharmacy is requested to submit this report, including any  
22 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
23 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Commerce  
27 and Consumer Affairs, Chairperson of the Board of Pharmacy,  
28 Mayor of the County of Maui, Interim Executive Director of the  
29 Lanai Community Health Center, and Chief Executive Officer of  
30 the Hawaii Primary Care Association.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 08 2024

