
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TELEHEALTH WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF WIDESPREAD TELEHEALTH ADOPTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IDENTIFY PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL TO OPTIMIZE TELEHEALTH UTILIZATION AS THE STATE TRANSITIONS OUT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

1 WHEREAS, the State experienced an increase in the use of
2 telehealth during the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic
3 by a factor of sixty-five and has remained at that level, which
4 is well above the pre-COVID-19 pandemic usage; and
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6 WHEREAS, telehealth adoption was most significant with
7 direct-to-consumer video visits on personal devices and audio-
8 only telephone visits, often without important elements of the
9 physical exam or vital signs being obtained during the visit;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, although there is some data to support the safety,
13 efficacy, timeliness, access, and cost effectiveness of
14 telehealth, the impact of widespread telehealth adoption in the
15 State is largely unknown; and
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17 WHEREAS, although telehealth (video and audio) visits may
18 improve short-term access to and timeliness of health care,
19 there may be adverse long-term consequences if patients are not
20 seen in person for physical examination, lab work, vital signs,
21 and other in-clinic testing; and
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23 WHEREAS, a full evaluation of the impact of widespread
24 telehealth adoption in the State on safety, utilization, total
25 cost of care, and patient and provider satisfaction to determine
26 how best to integrate telehealth into in-person practice as the
27 State transitions out of the COVID-19 pandemic would provide the



1 State with greater insight into existing telehealth challenges
2 and benefits; and

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4 WHEREAS, state agencies, health care systems, insurance
5 payers, and private organizations in the State individually have
6 incomplete access to health care utilization, safety, and cost
7 data, so no single organization can fully and accurately study
8 the impact of telehealth in the State; now, therefore,

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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that a Telehealth Working
13 Group is requested to be established to examine the impact of
14 widespread telehealth adoption during the COVID-19 pandemic and
15 identify public policy initiatives at the federal and state
16 level to optimize telehealth utilization as the State
17 transitions out of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Telehealth Working Group is
20 requested to consist of the following members:

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22 (1) The chairperson of the House of Representatives
23 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
24 health, or the chairperson's designee, who is
25 requested to serve as co-chairperson of the Working
26 Group for the purposes of convening the Working Group;

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28 (2) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with
29 primary jurisdiction over health, or the chairperson's
30 designee, who is requested to serve as co-chairperson
31 of the Working Group for the purposes of convening the
32 Working Group;

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34 (3) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;

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36 (4) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance
37 Commissioner's designee;

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39 (5) The Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the
40 Department of Human Services, or the Administrator's
41 designee;

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1 (6) A representative from the Professional and Vocational
2 Licensing (PVL) Division of the Department of Commerce
3 and Consumer Affairs, to be appointed by the Licensing
4 Administrator of the PVL Division, or the Licensing
5 Administrator's designee;

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7 (7) A representative of the Pacific Basin Telehealth
8 Resource Center of the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
9 to be appointed by the President of the University of
10 Hawaii;

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12 (8) A representative from the following organizations, who
13 are requested to be invited by the co-chairpersons:

14 (A) Hawaii Medical Association;

15 (B) Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association; and

16 (C) Healthcare Association of Hawaii; and

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21 (9) The following members, who are requested to be invited
22 by the co-chairpersons:

23 (A) Two representatives from health care systems
24 operating in the State;

25 (B) Two representatives from health insurers, mutual
26 benefit societies, or health maintenance
27 organizations operating in the State;

28 (C) One representative from health plans in the
29 State; and

30 (D) Any additional members deemed necessary by the
31 co-chairpersons; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Telehealth Working Group is
38 requested to submit a report of its findings and
39 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
41 the Regular Session of 2025; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House
3 of Representatives, President of the Senate, Director of Health,
4 Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Human
5 Services, President of the University of Hawaii, Insurance
6 Commissioner, Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the
7 Department of Human Services, President of the Hawaii Medical
8 Association, President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical
9 Association, and President and Chief Executive Officer of the
10 Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

