

MAR 08 2024

SENATE 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 COVID-19 pandemic by a factor of sixty-
3 five and has remained at that level, which is well above the
4 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
28 State with greater insight into existing telehealth challenges
29 and benefits; and



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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that a Telehealth Working Group is requested to be established 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; and

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

- (1) The chairperson of the House of Representatives standing committee with primary jurisdiction over health, or the chairperson's designee, who is requested to serve as co-chairperson of the Working Group for the purposes of convening the Working Group;
- (2) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over health, or the chairperson's designee, who is requested to serve as co-chairperson of the Working Group for the purposes of convening the Working Group;
- (3) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
- (4) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance Commissioner's designee;
- (5) The Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services, or the Administrator's designee;
- (6) A representative from the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and



1 Consumer Affairs, to be appointed by the Director of
2 Commerce and Consumer Affairs;

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4 (7) A representative of the Pacific Basin Telehealth
5 Resource Center of the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
6 to be appointed by the President of the University of
7 Hawaii;

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9 (8) A representative from the following organizations:

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11 (A) Hawaii Medical Association;

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13 (B) Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association; and

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15 (C) Healthcare Association of Hawaii; and

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17 (9) The following members, who are requested to be invited
18 by the co-chairpersons;

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20 (A) Two representatives from health care systems
21 operating in the State;

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

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27 (C) Any additional members deemed necessary by the
28 co-chairpersons; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Telehealth Working Group is
31 requested to submit a report of its findings and
32 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
33 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
34 the Regular Session of 2025; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of
38 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Human Services,
39 President of the University of Hawaii, Insurance Commissioner,
40 Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of
41 Human Services, President of the Hawaii Medical Association,
42 President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, and

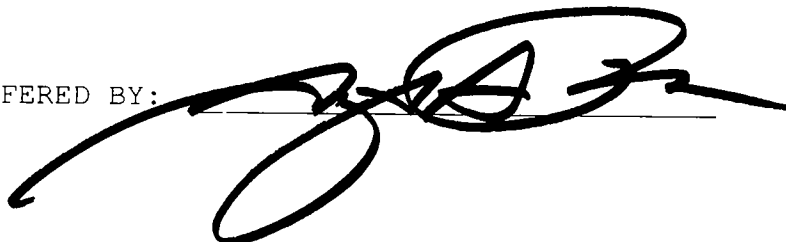


S.R. NO. 30

1 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare
2 Association of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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