

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department
2 of health for administrative purposes a rural health task force.
3 The task force shall consist of the following members:

4 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,
5 who shall serve as the chairperson;

6 (2) The rural health communities coordinator of the office
7 of primary care and rural health of the department of
8 health;

9 (3) The supervisor of the Maui public health nursing
10 section of the department of health, or the
11 supervisor's designee;

12 (4) The supervisor of the Molokai public health nursing
13 office of the department of health, or the
14 supervisor's designee;

15 (5) The supervisor of the Lanai public health nursing
16 office of the department of health, or the
17 supervisor's designee; and



1 (6) One representative from each of the following rural
2 health care facilities, to be invited by the
3 chairperson:

4 (A) Hana Community Health Center;

5 (B) Molokai General Hospital;

6 (C) Lanai Community Health Center; and

7 (D) Molokai Community Health Center.

8 (b) The task force shall prepare and develop solutions and
9 make recommendations regarding the recruitment of registered
10 nurses, accountability and management of registered nurse
11 retention, and facility-specific needs for the health care
12 sector in rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. The
13 task force shall base its plans and solutions on studies and
14 data related to improving the recruitment of registered nurses
15 in rural areas and retention of registered nurses based on a
16 nurse-to-patient ratio. The duties of the task force shall
17 include but are not limited to:

18 (1) Taking account of the needs of rural health care
19 facilities in east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;



1 (2) Managing the ratio of registered nurses to patients in
2 each rural health care facility in east Maui, Molokai,
3 and Lanai;

4 (3) Developing recommendations for affordable workforce
5 housing to manage retention of registered nurses;

6 (4) Surveying the demand for telehealth-based medical
7 direction;

8 (5) Considering further retention options, including
9 travel nurses;

10 (6) Analyzing the impact nurse retention has on rural
11 health care facilities; and

12 (7) Researching current best practices on retaining
13 registered nurses.

14 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without
15 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and
16 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in
17 carrying out their official duties pursuant to this Act. No
18 member of the task force shall be subject to chapter 84, Hawaii
19 Revised Statutes, solely because of the member's participation
20 in the task force.



1 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
2 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 the regular session of 2025.

5 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2025.

6 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY: Lyn DeLoite



S.B. NO. 2775

Report Title:

DOH; Rural Health; Task Force; Registered Nurses; Nurse Retention; Recruitment

Description:

Establishes the Rural Health Task Force within the Department of Health to make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

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