

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TEMPORARY TASK
FORCE TO EXAMINE ALL RELEVANT ISSUES, OTHER THAN MEDICAL
MALPRACTICE LIABILITY AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS, THAT MAY
CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXODUS OF PHYSICIANS FROM THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, there has been widespread coverage in the local
2 media that many of Hawaii's physicians, particularly
3 specialists, have chosen to leave the State for various reasons;
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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature is very much aware of this trend
7 and of the assertions that medical malpractice liability and
8 costly medical malpractice insurance premiums are contributing
9 to this trend; and

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11 WHEREAS, the issue of medical malpractice insurance
12 premiums remains a topic of serious, extensive, and ongoing
13 discussions within the Legislature; and

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15 WHEREAS, however, the Legislature also wishes to uncover
16 and address additional potential reasons for the departure of
17 physicians from the State to fashion a more comprehensive
18 approach to the problem; and

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20 WHEREAS, for example, the State's geographic isolation as
21 the nation's only island state located in the middle of the
22 Pacific Ocean may act as a relative barrier to easy interstate
23 migration of professionals, including physicians; and

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25 WHEREAS, the issue of an alleged monopolistic underwriting
26 structure for reimbursement for physicians in the State has been
27 raised as a problem; and

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1 WHEREAS, the high cost of living in the State affects
2 everyone, including physicians earning relatively higher
3 incomes; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State to attain a
6 thorough understanding of the issues that may contribute to the
7 exodus of physicians from Hawaii to better fashion a
8 comprehensive and effective solution; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
13 is requested to convene a temporary task force to examine all
14 relevant issues, other than medical malpractice liability and
15 insurance premiums, and that may contribute to the exodus of
16 physicians from the State; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
19 requested to include on the temporary task force:
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- 21 (1) The Insurance Commissioner;
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- 23 (2) The Director of Human Services;
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- 25 (3) Physicians;
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- 27 (4) A representative of the health insurance industry;
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- 29 (5) A representative of mutual benefit societies;
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- 31 (6) A representative of health maintenance organizations;
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- 33 (7) A representative of the general public; and
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- 35 (8) Any other members the Director of Health deems
36 advisable; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
39 requested to convene the task force no later than July 1, 2007
40 and to terminate the task force on June 30, 2008; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
43 requested to submit findings and recommendations, including any
44 necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
2 2008; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
6 who, in turn, is requested to notify physicians and
7 representatives of the health insurance industry, mutual benefit
8 societies, and health maintenance organizations, and to the
9 Director of Human Services, and the Insurance Commissioner.

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OFFERED BY: Amil Y. Dye

