

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICINE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States
2 devotes far more of its economy - 17.2 per cent of its gross
3 domestic product - to health than any other country. In 2012,
4 United States health care spending reached \$2,800,000,000,000,
5 or about \$8,915 per resident. Chronic diseases have played an
6 important role in this cost escalation and it is estimated that
7 preventable diseases account for approximately 75 per cent of
8 national health expenditures. According to the federal Centers
9 for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2010, seven of the top
10 ten causes of death among Americans were from chronic diseases.
11 Heart disease and cancer account for nearly 48 per cent of all
12 deaths. The legislature further finds that chronic disease is
13 one component of the overall health and health care cost
14 challenges faced within the country. Changes in nutrition and
15 lifestyle behavior are therefore a key part of the solution to
16 managing chronic disease and moderating future health care
17 costs.



1 The legislature additionally finds that physicians are
2 uniquely positioned to educate patients about the links among
3 chronic disease, diet, and physical activity. However, fewer
4 than 25 per cent of physicians believe they have sufficient
5 training to talk to patients about nutrition or physical
6 activity and less than one-eighth of medical visits include
7 counseling for nutrition. A 2010 survey of nutrition education
8 in the country's medical schools found that nutrition education
9 was covered inadequately or unevenly throughout all levels of
10 medical training. In addition, more than one-half of medical
11 school graduates do not believe the nutrition education they
12 receive is sufficient for medical practice.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require the Hawaii medical
14 board to convene a working group to discuss nutrition and
15 lifestyle behavior for the prevention and treatment of chronic
16 disease and report to the legislature prior to the convening of
17 the regular session of 2017.

18 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii medical board shall convene a
19 working group of interested parties to discuss nutrition and
20 lifestyle behavior changes for the prevention and treatment of
21 chronic disease, including exploring the potential benefits of:



(1) Periodically disseminating information and educational material regarding the prevention and treatment of chronic disease, through the application of changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior, to each licensed physician and surgeon and each hospital in the State; and

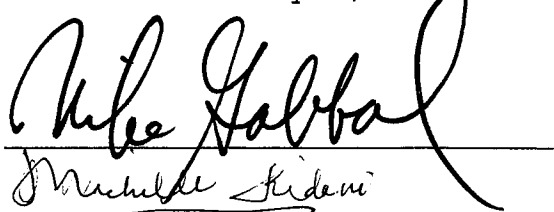
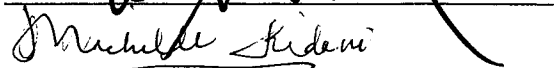
(2) Settings content standards for continuing education requirements concerning chronic disease, including appropriate information on prevention of chronic disease, and treatment of patients with chronic disease through changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior.

(b) The board shall convene the working group at one of its meetings no later than July 1, 2016.

(c) The board shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. **LA5**

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S.B. NO. 695

Report Title:

Medicine; Physicians; Working Group; Chronic Disease; Nutrition and Lifestyle Behavior

Description:

Requires the Hawaii medical board to convene a working group to discuss nutrition and lifestyle behavior for the prevention and treatment of chronic disease at a board meeting before July 1, 2016. Requires a report to the legislature prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017.

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