A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

- SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is

 consistently ranked among the top states for overall health,

 including metrics that track the rate of uninsured individuals.

 According to both U.S. News and WalletHub's annual state
- 5 rankings for 2017, Hawaii ranked first in the nation in overall
- 6 health. According to United Health Foundation's annual state
- 7 rankings for 2017, Hawaii was ranked second in overall health.
- 8 According to the federal Census Bureau's "Health Insurance
- ${f 9}$ Coverage in the United States: 2016" report, Hawaii had the
- 10 second lowest percentage of uninsured persons in 2016 with only
- 11 3.5 per cent of the Hawaii population being uninsured.
- 12 The legislature further finds that these excellent rankings
- 13 are most attributable to Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act of
- 14 1974. The Prepaid Health Care Act was drafted per the
- 15 recommendations of a 1971 Legislative Reference Bureau report,
- 16 authored by Professor Stefan A. Reisenfeld, that estimated
- 17 Hawaii's health care coverage gap to range from eleven per cent

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1	to ninet	een per	cent,	depending	on	the	type	of	insurance	and	
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- 2 population estimate. Based on Professor Reisenfeld's
- 3 recommendations, Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act requires that:
- 4 (1) Every regular employee in private employment shall
- 5 have access to a prepaid plan providing for hospital,
- 6 surgical, and medical benefits;
- 7 (2) The level of benefits provided conform with the
- 8 prevailing community standards;
 - (3) Costs are shared by the employer and the employee;
- 10 (4) The system does not interfere with the collective
- 11 bargaining process or interfere with the services
- 12 provided pursuant to such collective bargaining
- 13 agreements; and
- 14 (5) The mandate that employers provide coverage is coupled
- with a plan for premium supplementation from general
- revenues.
- 17 Enacted after years of negotiation, the Prepaid Health Care
- 18 Act made Hawaii the first state to have an employer mandate,
- 19 which requires certain employers to provide health insurance to
- 20 qualified employees. As stated at the time of the Act's passage
- 21 in floor debate in the house of representatives, the Prepaid

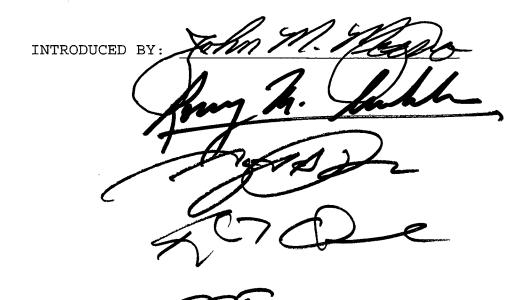
- 1 Health Care Act embodies the concept that "every resident of
- 2 this State has the right to good health and good health care."
- 3 Additionally, the legislature finds that the State's
- 4 creation of MED-QUEST, under its 1115 waiver, supplemented the
- 5 Prepaid Health Care Act's ambition of providing access to health
- 6 care to all individuals in Hawaii. Due to its expansion under
- 7 the federal Affordable Care Act, more than three hundred
- 8 thousand persons have access to medical benefits through MED-
- 9 QUEST.
- 10 However, the legislature further finds that the looming
- 11 uncertainty in the public and private health insurance markets
- 12 due to instability in federal programs and the federal
- 13 Affordable Care Act necessitates that Hawaii continue to
- 14 innovate and be a pioneer in health care access.
- 15 The purpose of this Act is to establish a health care
- 16 access task force that will review relevant health care
- 17 policies, legislation, and authority, and make recommendations
- 18 to improve access to health care in Hawaii.
- 19 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a health care access
- 20 task force within the department of health for administrative
- 21 purposes. The health care access task force shall review health

care policies, legislation, and authority including but not 1 2 limited to: Nevada's Assembly Bill 374 (2017), informally known as 3 (1) 4 "SprinkleCare", which proposed the establishment of a 5 Nevada Care Plan to allow any state resident to 6 purchase insurance coverage through that state's 7 Medicaid program on the open market; 8 (2) Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act of 1974; 9 (3) United States' Senate Bill 1804 (2017), the "Medicare 10 for All Act of 2017"; 11 (4)The Affordable Care Act; and 12 Chapter 322H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which (5) 13 established the Hawaii health authority. 14 (b) The health care access task force shall consist of the 15 following members or their designees: 16 (1) The director of health, who shall serve as **17** chairperson; 18 The director of human services: (2) 19 (3) The director of the executive office on aging; 20 (4) Two members of the house of representatives appointed 21 by the speaker of the house of representatives;

1	(5)	Two members of the senace appointed by the president
2		of the senate;
3	(6)	The chief executive officer of Healthcare Association
4		of Hawaii;
5	(7)	The director of the Institute for Human Services;
6	(8)	One advocate for health care appointed by the speaker
7		of the house of representatives; and
8	(9)	One advocate for health care appointed by the
9		president of the senate.
10	The	members of the health care access task force shall
11	serve wit	hout compensation, and all necessary expenses,
12	including	travel expenses, shall be paid by the agency,
13	organizat	ion, or department to which the member belongs. No
14	member sh	all be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised
15	Statutes,	solely because of that member's participation as a
16	member of	the task force.
17	(c)	The health care access task force shall submit a
18	report of	its findings and recommendations to improve access to
19	health ca	re, including any proposed legislation, to the
20	legislatu	re no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21	the recul	ar session of 2019

- 1 (d) The health care access task force shall cease to exist
- 2 on January 10, 2019.
- 3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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JAN 1 8 2018

Report Title:

Health Care; Access; Task Force

Description:

Establishes a health care access task force to review health care policies, the affordable care act, and other jurisdictions' health care legislative proposals to determine ways the state can increase access to health care.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.