
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF THE PHYSICIAN
NETWORKS ON ALL ISLANDS OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, there is a significant shortage of physicians in
2 the State, particularly on the neighbor islands; and
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4 WHEREAS, this shortage has been verified through the
5 canvassing of physicians in Hawaii in the annual physician
6 workforce assessment, which the John A. Burns School of Medicine
7 at the University of Hawaii submits to the Legislature pursuant
8 to Act 18, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, as amended by
9 Act 186, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, as amended by Act 40,
10 Session Laws of Hawaii 2017; and
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12 WHEREAS, members of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the
13 State of Hawaii considered legislation to encourage an increase
14 in the number of physicians providing care to the State's
15 population; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Hawaii,
18 through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, has
19 submitted proposed legislation regulating health provider
20 network adequacy requirements; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
23 placed on insurance providers the responsibility of maintaining
24 adequate networks of health care providers; and
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26 WHEREAS, insurance providers in Hawaii declare existing
27 health provider networks to be adequate; and
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29 WHEREAS, patients, particularly those living on neighbor
30 islands, contend that they experience extended wait times for
31 physician appointments because of a shortage of physicians
32 within a convenient geographic range; and
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1 WHEREAS, patients who live on neighbor islands contend that
2 they are required to make regular airline trips to Oahu, at
3 significant personal cost, to receive specialty care because of
4 a lack of specialist physicians on their home islands; now,
5 therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2018, that the Auditor is requested to assess the adequacy of
10 the physician networks on all islands of the State; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the assessment,
13 the Auditor is requested to seek cooperation and information
14 from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of
15 Hawaii and the comprehensive health insurance providers in the
16 State; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
19 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
20 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
21 January 1, 2019; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the Dean of the John
25 A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii, Hawaii
26 Medical Service Association, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, and the
27 Hawaii Medical Association.

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30 OFFERED BY:

T. Stali
L. Linderichsen

MAR 07 2018

