

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO
CONDUCT A STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO LICENSURE FOR
FOREIGN-TRAINED DENTISTS AND PHYSICIANS.

1 WHEREAS, there are a number of foreign-trained dentists and
2 physicians living in Hawaii who are unable to practice their
3 profession because their training and education were conducted
4 outside the United States and do not meet the State's licensing
5 requirements; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Health Resources and Services Administration,
8 a division of the United States Department of Health and Human
9 Services, has designated various communities throughout Hawaii
10 as Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved
11 Areas; and

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13 WHEREAS, a number of states have begun exploring
14 alternative pathways for foreign-trained dental and medical
15 professionals; and

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17 WHEREAS, Minnesota has prohibited disqualification of
18 internationally educated dental graduates solely because of
19 their foreign training since the early 2000's and, in 2014,
20 established the Foreign Trained Physician Task Force to develop
21 strategies to integrate physicians into the Minnesota health
22 care delivery system; and

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24 WHEREAS, Massachusetts created a commission this year to,
25 among other things, address barriers to practice for foreign-
26 trained health professions and to make recommendations on
27 strategies to integrate foreign-trained medical professionals
28 into rural and underserved areas; and

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30 WHEREAS, allowing foreign-trained dentists and physicians
31 living in Hawaii to practice in this State could help mitigate
32 the current physician shortages being experienced in certain



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1 geographical areas and increase access to primary health
2 services; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
6 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Commerce and
7 Consumer Affairs is requested to conduct a study on alternative
8 pathways to licensure for foreign-trained dentists and
9 physicians, including options utilized by other states; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
12 Consumer Affairs is requested to include in its study any
13 recommended changes to the licensing process that could be
14 implemented by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
15 or respective licensing boards without legislative action; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
18 Consumer Affairs is requested to submit a report of its findings
19 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
20 Legislature no later than forty days prior to the convening of
21 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce
25 and Consumer Affairs.

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OFFERED BY: _____

Tracie R. Mowse
Anna Muroda Ku

