

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE 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
33 geographical areas and increase access to primary health
34 services; now, therefore,
35



S.R. NO. 165

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
 3 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is requested to
 4 conduct a study on alternative pathways to licensure for
 5 foreign-trained dentists and physicians, including options
 6 utilized by other states; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
 9 Consumer Affairs is requested to include in its study any
 10 recommended changes to the licensing process that could be
 11 implemented by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
 12 or respective licensing boards without legislative action; and
 13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Commerce and
 15 Consumer Affairs is requested to submit a report of its findings
 16 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 17 Legislature no later than forty days prior to the convening of
 18 the Regular Session of 2021; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
 22 Consumer Affairs.
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 24
 25

OFFERED BY: Kal Hood

Maureen G. Mowry
 Anne Inoué K

