
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE THE GAPS IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND THE POTENTIAL ROLE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES MAY PLAY IN ADDRESSING THESE GAPS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's health care system is in crisis due to
2 the severe shortage of physicians in the State; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the Hawai'i Physician Workforce
5 Assessment Project study conducted in 2020 by the Area Health
6 Education Center of Hawaii at the University of Hawaii, the gap
7 between supply and demand for doctors in Hawaii has grown by
8 sixty-five percent since 2010; and
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10 WHEREAS, the biennial Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment
11 Project study also reported a current shortage of eight hundred
12 twenty physicians statewide, with the neighbor islands hardest
13 affected; and
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15 WHEREAS, there is a physician shortfall of sixteen percent
16 on Oahu, compared to a forty-four percent shortfall for the
17 island of Hawaii, thirty-six percent for Maui County, and
18 thirty-two percent for the island of Kauai; and
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20 WHEREAS, advanced practice registered nurses may assist in
21 increasing the supply of health care providers, especially for
22 the neighbor islands and rural areas in the State; and
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24 WHEREAS, studies show that advanced practice registered
25 nurses are competent and able to perform many health care
26 procedures that physicians perform; and
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28 WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary for the State to
29 determine the role of advanced practice registered nurses within
30 the State's health care system; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2021, that the Board of Nursing and Hawaii Medical Board are
4 requested to convene a working group to determine the gaps in
5 access to health care and the potential role advanced practice
6 registered nurses may play in addressing these gaps; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tasks of the working group
9 are requested to include:

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11 (1) Identifying the gaps and limitations that exist in
12 providing access to health care, especially on the
13 neighbor islands and in rural communities; and
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15 (2) An evaluation of how advanced practice registered
16 nurses would increase equitable access to health care
17 on the neighbor islands and in rural areas in the
18 State; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
21 to comprise the following members, or their designees:

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23 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Nursing, who is
24 requested to serve as a co-chairperson of the working
25 group;
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27 (2) The Chairperson of the Hawaii Medical Board, who is
28 requested to serve as a co-chairperson of the working
29 group;
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31 (3) The Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A.
32 Burns School of Medicine;
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34 (4) The Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa School
35 of Nursing and Dental Hygiene;
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37 (5) The Director of Health;
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39 (6) The Director of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing;
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41 (7) The President of the Hawai'i Psychological Association;



- 1 (8) The President of the Hawaii Association of
- 2 Professional Nurses;
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- 4 (9) A representative from each major nonprofit health care
- 5 system;
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- 7 (10) One member to be designated by the Senate President;
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- 9 (11) One member to be designated by the Speaker of the
- 10 House of Representatives; and
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- 12 (12) Any other individuals invited by either
- 13 co-chairperson; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 16 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
 17 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
 18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 19 of 2023; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 22 to dissolve on December 30, 2022; and

23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 26 Nursing, Chairperson of the Hawaii Medical Board, Dean of the
 27 University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine,
 28 Dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing and
 29 Dental Hygiene, Director of Health, Director of the Hawai'i State
 30 Center for Nursing, President of the Hawai'i Psychological
 31 Association, President of the Hawaii Association of Professional
 32 Nurses, President of The Queen's Health Systems, President of
 33 Hawaii Pacific Health, President of Adventist Health Castle, and
 34 President of Kaiser Permanente Hawaii Health Plan and Hospitals.

