

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP BETTER MISSION-DRIVEN HIRING AND
TRAINING OF INTERPRETERS EMPLOYED AT ITS FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)
2 provides high quality health care services to residents and
3 visitors throughout the State and serves as a vital component of
4 Hawai'i's system of health care; and

5
6 WHEREAS, HHSC consists of a network of hospitals and
7 clinics, some of which are located in remote, rural, and low-
8 populated areas; and

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10 WHEREAS, HHSC facilities provide safety-net services for
11 neighbor island acute care and for long-term care in the State
12 as they serve all people, regardless of whether an individual
13 has health insurance or the ability to pay for the health care
14 service they receive; and

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16 WHEREAS, HHSC's mission is to provide accessible, high
17 quality, cost-effective services that address the health care
18 needs of Hawai'i's unique island communities; and

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20 WHEREAS, HHSC's vision is to be recognized as a progressive
21 model for an accessible, integrated, patient-centered, and
22 fiscally responsible health care system focused on assuring high
23 quality care to improve the health of Hawai'i's underserved
24 communities; and

25
26 WHEREAS, HHSC facilities comply with applicable federal,
27 state, and local civil rights laws and do not discriminate on
28 the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion,
29 age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or marital status; and

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31 WHEREAS, the unique island populations served by the HHSC
32 speak a wide range of languages in their homes other than



1 English, including but not limited to Burmese, Cambodian,
2 Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Chuukese, Hawaiian,
3 Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Kosraean, Lao, Marshallese,
4 Pohnpeian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Tongan, and
5 Vietnamese; and
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7 WHEREAS, members of Hawai'i's unique non-English speaking
8 populations are often reluctant and intimidated to seek medical
9 care due to the lack of properly trained interpreters in HHSC
10 medical facilities who are able to assist those seeking medical
11 care because of language and cultural barriers; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the HHSC is requested
16 to convene a task force to facilitate improved, mission-driven
17 hiring and training of culturally-accepted interpreters to
18 assist non-English speaking populations seeking care at HHSC
19 facilities; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is urged that the task force
22 include the following as members:
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- 24 (1) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health
25 Systems Corporation, to serve as chairperson;
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- 27 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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- 29 (3) One representative from the Office of Language Access;
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- 31 (4) Two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the
32 President of the Senate;
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- 34 (5) Two members of the House of Representatives, to be
35 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
36 Representatives;
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- 38 (6) Two members of the language interpreters and
39 translator community; and
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- 41 (7) Two community health workers; and
42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
2 assistance of the HHSC, is requested to submit a written report
3 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
4 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
5 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on
8 June 30, 2024; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
12 of Health, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems
13 Corporation, and Executive Director of the Office of Language
14 Access.

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17 OFFERED BY:

