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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP BETTER MISSION-DRIVEN HIRING AND TRAINING OF CULTURALLY-ACCEPTED INTERPRETERS EMPLOYED AT HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS FACILITIES AND TO CREATE CULTURALLY-ACCEPTED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON PREVENTATIVE CARE AND EARLY INTERVENTION TO ASSIST NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING POPULATIONS SEEKING CARE AT HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION 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  
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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  
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1 WHEREAS, HHSC facilities comply with applicable federal,  
2 state, and local civil rights laws and do not discriminate on  
3 the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion,  
4 age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or marital status; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the unique island populations served by the HHSC  
7 speak a wide range of languages in their homes other than  
8 English, including but not limited to Burmese, Cambodian,  
9 Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Chuukese, Hawaiian,  
10 Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Kosraean, Lao, Marshallese,  
11 Pohnpeian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Tongan, and  
12 Vietnamese; and  
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14 WHEREAS, members of Hawai'i's unique non-English speaking  
15 populations are often reluctant and intimidated to seek medical  
16 care due to the lack of properly trained interpreters in HHSC  
17 medical facilities who are able to assist those seeking medical  
18 care because of language and cultural barriers; now, therefore,  
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Health  
23 Services Corporation and the Department of Health are requested  
24 to convene a task force to facilitate improved, mission-driven  
25 hiring and training of culturally-accepted interpreters and to  
26 create culturally-accepted educational materials on preventative  
27 care and early intervention to assist non-English speaking  
28 populations seeking care at Hawaii Health Systems Corporation  
29 facilities; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is urged that the task force  
32 include the following as members:  
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- 34 (1) The Regional Chief Executive Officer of the East  
35 Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, to  
36 serve as chairperson;  
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- 38 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;  
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- 40 (3) One representative from the Office of Language Access;  
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- 1 (4) Two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the
- 2 President of the Senate;
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- 4 (5) Two members of the House of Representatives, to be
- 5 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 6 Representatives;
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- 8 (6) Two members of the language interpreter and translator
- 9 community;
- 10
- 11 (7) Two community health workers; and
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- 13 (8) Two members of a nonprofit Micronesian advocacy group;
- 14 and
- 15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the  
 17 assistance of the HHSC and the Department of Health, is  
 18 requested to submit a written report of its findings and  
 19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 20 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 21 the Regular Session of 2023; and

22  
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on  
 24 June 30, 2024; and

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 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
 28 of Health, Regional Chief Executive Officer of the East Hawaii  
 29 Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and Executive  
 30 Director of the Office of Language Access.

