

JAN 26 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department  
2 of health for administrative purposes a rural health task force.  
3 The task force shall consist of the following members:

4       (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,  
5       who shall serve as the chairperson;

6       (2) The director of human services, or the director's  
7       designee;

8       (3) The rural health communities coordinator of the office  
9       of primary care and rural health of the department of  
10       health;

11       (4) The supervisor of the Maui public health nursing  
12       section of the department of health, or the  
13       supervisor's designee;

14       (5) The supervisor of the Molokai public health nursing  
15       office of the department of health, or the  
16       supervisor's designee;



1           (6) The supervisor of the Lanai public health nursing  
2           office of the department of health, or the  
3           supervisor's designee; and

4           (7) One representative from each of the following rural  
5           health care facilities, to be invited by the  
6           chairperson:

7           (A) Hana Community Health Center;

8           (B) Molokai General Hospital; and

9           (C) Lanai Community Health Center.

10          (b) The task force shall prepare and develop solutions and  
11          make recommendations regarding the recruitment of registered  
12          nurses, accountability and management of registered nurse  
13          retention, and facility-specific needs for the health care  
14          sector in rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. The  
15          task force shall base its plans and solutions on studies and  
16          data related to improving the recruitment of registered nurses  
17          in rural areas and retention of registered nurses based on a  
18          nurse-to-patient ratio. The duties of the task force shall  
19          include but are not limited to:

20          (1) Taking account of the needs of rural health care  
21          facilities in east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;



1           (2) Managing the ratio of registered nurses to patients in  
2           each rural health care facility in east Maui, Molokai,  
3           and Lanai;

4           (3) Developing recommendations for affordable workforce  
5           housing to manage retention of registered nurses;

6           (4) Surveying the demand for telehealth-based medical  
7           direction;

8           (5) Considering further retention options, including  
9           travel nurses;

10          (6) Analyzing the impact nurse retention has on rural  
11          health care facilities; and

12          (7) Researching current best practices on retaining  
13          registered nurses.

14          (c) Members of the task force shall serve without  
15          compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and  
16          necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in  
17          carrying out their official dues pursuant to this Act.

18          (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
19          and 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.



1 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2023.

2 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lyn DuCote



# S.B. NO. 3180

**Report Title:**

DOH; Rural Health; Task Force; Registered Nurses; Nurse Retention; Recruitment

**Description:**

Establishes the rural health task force within the department of health to make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

