
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.



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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: Linda A Clark
JAN 20 2022



H.B. NO. 1635

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.

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