
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 center for
2 nursing for administrative purposes a rural health task force.
3 The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 4 (1) The chairperson of the advisory board for the center
5 for nursing, or the chairperson's designee, who shall
6 serve as the chairperson of the task force;
- 7 (2) The rural health coordinator of the office of primary
8 care and rural health of the department of health;
- 9 (3) The supervisor of the Maui public health nursing
10 section of the department of health, or the
11 supervisor's designee;
- 12 (4) The supervisor of the Molokai public health nursing
13 office of the department of health, or the
14 supervisor's designee;
- 15 (5) The supervisor of the Lanai public health nursing
16 office of the department of health, or the
17 supervisor's designee; and



1 (6) One representative from each of the following
2 federally qualified health care centers and rural
3 health care facilities, to be invited by the
4 chairperson:

- 5 (A) Hana Health;
- 6 (B) Molokai General Hospital;
- 7 (C) Lanai Community Health Center;
- 8 (D) Malama I Ke Ola Health Center; and
- 9 (E) Molokai Community Health Center.

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

- 20 (1) Considering the needs of rural health care facilities
21 on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;



- 1 (2) Managing the ratio of registered nurses to patients in
2 each rural health care facility on Maui, Molokai, and
3 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 that nurse retention has on rural
11 health care facilities; and
- 12 (7) Researching current best practices for retaining
13 registered nurses.
- 14 (c) To inform the assessment required by this Act, the
15 center for nursing shall engage professionals from the
16 University of Hawaii Maui College nursing program, as well as
17 Maui Health Systems and Kaiser Permanente, for input on the
18 plans, solutions, and recommendations developed by the task
19 force.
- 20 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without
21 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and



1 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in
2 carrying out their official duties pursuant to this Act.

3 (e) The task force shall submit a preliminary report of
4 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
5 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
6 to the convening of the regular session of 2023. The task force
7 shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations,
8 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
9 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
10 of 2024.

11 (f) The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2024.

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



Report Title:

Center for Nursing; Rural Health; Task Force; Registered Nurses;
Nurse Retention; Recruitment

Description:

Establishes the Rural Health Task Force within the Center for Nursing to prepare and develop solutions and make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Requires the Rural Health Task Force to submit reports of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2023, and prior to the Regular Session of 2024. (SD2)

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