
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A TELEHEALTH AND TELEPHONIC SERVICES WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEXITIES SURROUNDING THE APPROPRIATE USE OF TELEHEALTH AND TELEPHONIC SERVICES, BY SPECIALTY CARE AREA, AND COVERAGE OF THESE SERVICES BY HEALTH INSURANCE.

1 WHEREAS, health care providers in Hawaii increasingly rely
2 on real-time audio and visual telehealth visits and other
3 modalities of care delivery to increase access to health care in
4 the State; and

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6 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic placed
7 severe restrictions on in-person gatherings and meetings,
8 thereby increasing the need for remote modalities of health care
9 delivery; and

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11 WHEREAS, telehealth is a valuable method of health care
12 delivery that requires further discussion and evaluation to
13 determine whether its use can ensure quality health outcomes for
14 patients, by specialty care area, and the appropriate health
15 insurance coverage levels for these services; and

16
17 WHEREAS, there is an additional need to remedy digital
18 health disparities for individuals who lack access to the audio-
19 visual technology needed for telehealth visits; and

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21 WHEREAS, other remote care modalities, such as audio-only
22 telephonic services, are a valuable method of health care
23 delivery; and

24
25 WHEREAS, audio-only telephonic services are not currently
26 considered telehealth services; and



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1 WHEREAS, there is a need for further discussion and
2 evaluation to determine whether audio-only telephonic services
3 can ensure quality health outcomes for patients, by specialty
4 care area, and the appropriate health insurance coverage levels
5 for these services; now, therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Health is
10 requested to establish a telehealth and telephonic services
11 working group to address the complexities surrounding the
12 appropriate use of telehealth and telephonic services, by
13 specialty care area, and coverage of these services by health
14 insurance; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
17 to include:

- 18
19 (1) A representative of the House of Representatives, to
20 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
21 Representative;
- 22
23 (2) A representative from the Senate, to be appointed by
24 the President of the Senate;
- 25
26 (3) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
- 27
28 (4) The Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the
29 Department of Human Services, or the Administrator's
30 designee;
- 31
32 (5) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance
33 Commissioner's designee; and
- 34
35 (6) A representative from the Professional and Vocational
36 Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and
37 Consumer Affairs, to be appointed by the Director of
38 Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and

39
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
41 requested to serve as chairperson of the working group; and
42



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson is requested to
2 invite representatives from the following organizations to
3 participate in the working group:

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- 5 (1) Two representatives from health care systems operating
6 in the State;
 - 7
 - 8 (2) Two representatives from health insurers, mutual
9 benefit societies, or health maintenance organizations
10 operating in the State;
 - 11
 - 12 (3) One representative from the Hawaii Medical
13 Association; and
 - 14
 - 15 (4) One representative from the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical
16 Association; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
19 to consider:

- 20
- 21 (1) All available peer-reviewed research, studies, and
22 models for telehealth, audio-only telephonic services,
23 and other modalities of remote care and whether use of
24 these remote care services can ensure quality health
25 care patient outcomes, by specialty care area;
 - 26
 - 27 (2) Guidelines and requirements from the Centers for
28 Medicare and Medicaid Services and Hawaii Med-QUEST
29 for telehealth, audio-only telephonic services, and
30 other modalities of remote care, by specialty care
31 area; and
 - 32
 - 33 (3) Appropriate health insurance coverage levels for
34 telehealth and audio-only telephonic services, by
35 specialty care area; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
38 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
39 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
40 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
41 of 2023; and
42

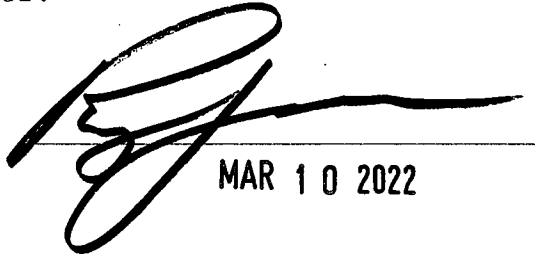


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
3 Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Human
4 Services, and Insurance Commissioner.

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OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

MAR 10 2022

