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## HOUSE 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

5  
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

10  
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

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

27  
28           WHEREAS, there is a need for further discussion and  
29 evaluation to determine whether audio-only telephonic services  
30 can ensure quality health outcomes for patients, by specialty



1 care area, and the appropriate health insurance coverage levels  
2 for these services; now, therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2022, that the Director of Health is requested to establish a  
7 telehealth and telephonic services working group to address the  
8 complexities surrounding the appropriate use of telehealth and  
9 telephonic services, by specialty care area, and coverage of  
10 these services by health insurance; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
13 to include:

- 14  
15 (1) A representative of the House of Representatives, to  
16 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
17 Representative;
- 18  
19 (2) A representative from the Senate, to be appointed by  
20 the President of the Senate;
- 21  
22 (3) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
- 23  
24 (4) The Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the  
25 Department of Human Services, or the Administrator's  
26 designee;
- 27  
28 (5) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance  
29 Commissioner's designee; and
- 30  
31 (6) A representative from the Professional and Vocational  
32 Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and  
33 Consumer Affairs, to be appointed by the Director of  
34 Commerce and Consumer Affairs; and

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
37 requested to serve as chairperson of the working group; and

38  
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson is requested to  
40 invite representatives from the following organizations to  
41 participate in the working group:



# H.R. NO. 60

- 1 (1) Two representatives from health care systems operating  
2 in the State;
- 3
- 4 (2) Two representatives from health insurers, mutual  
5 benefit societies, or health maintenance organizations  
6 operating in the State;
- 7
- 8 (3) One representative from the Hawaii Medical  
9 Association; and
- 10
- 11 (4) One representative from the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical  
12 Association; and
- 13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
15 to consider:

- 16
- 17 (1) All available peer-reviewed research, studies, and  
18 models for telehealth, audio-only telephonic services,  
19 and other modalities of remote care and whether use of  
20 these remote care services can ensure quality health  
21 care patient outcomes, by specialty care area;
- 22
- 23 (2) Guidelines and requirements from the Centers for  
24 Medicare and Medicaid Services and Hawaii Med-QUEST  
25 for telehealth, audio-only telephonic services, and  
26 other modalities of remote care, by specialty care  
27 area; and
- 28
- 29 (3) Appropriate health insurance coverage levels for  
30 telehealth and audio-only telephonic services, by  
31 specialty care area; and
- 32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
34 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
35 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
36 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
37 of 2023; and

38

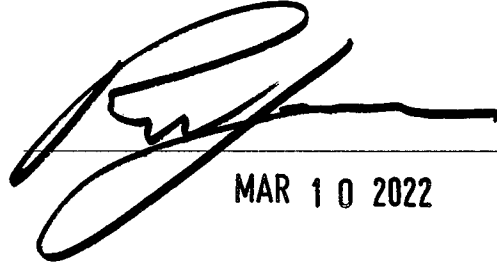
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of  
41 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Human Services, and  
42 Insurance Commissioner.



H.R. NO. 60

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OFFERED BY:

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

MAR 10 2022

