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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TELEHEALTH WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF WIDESPREAD TELEHEALTH ADOPTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IDENTIFY PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL TO OPTIMIZE TELEHEALTH UTILIZATION AS THE STATE TRANSITIONS OUT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

1           WHEREAS, the State experienced an increase in the use of  
2 telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic by a factor of sixty-  
3 five and has remained at that level, which is well above the  
4 pre-COVID-19 pandemic usage; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, telehealth adoption was most significant with  
7 direct-to-consumer video visits on personal devices and audio-  
8 only telephone visits, often without important elements of the  
9 physical exam or vital signs being obtained during the visit;  
10 and

11  
12           WHEREAS, although there is some data to support the safety,  
13 efficacy, timeliness, access, and cost effectiveness of  
14 telehealth, the impact of widespread telehealth adoption in the  
15 State is largely unknown; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, although telehealth (video and audio) visits may  
18 improve short term access to and timeliness of health care,  
19 there may be adverse long-term consequences if patients are not  
20 seen in person for physical examination, lab work, vital signs,  
21 and other in-clinic testing; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, a full evaluation of the impact of widespread  
24 telehealth adoption in the State on safety, utilization, total  
25 cost of care, and patient and provider satisfaction to determine  
26 how best to integrate telehealth into in-person practice as the  
27 State transitions out of the COVID-19 pandemic would provide the



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1 State with greater insight into existing telehealth challenges  
2 and benefits; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, state agencies, health care systems, insurance  
5 payers, and private organizations in the State individually have  
6 incomplete access to health care utilization, safety, and cost  
7 data, so no single organization can fully and accurately study  
8 the impact of telehealth in the State; now, therefore,

9  
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
12 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that a Telehealth  
13 Working Group is requested to be established to examine the  
14 impact of widespread telehealth adoption during the COVID-19  
15 pandemic and identify public policy initiatives at the federal  
16 and state level to optimize telehealth utilization as the State  
17 transitions out of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Telehealth Working Group is  
20 requested to consist of the following members:

- 21  
22 (1) The chairperson of the House of Representatives  
23 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over  
24 health, or the chairperson's designee, who is  
25 requested to serve as co-chairperson of the Working  
26 Group for the purposes of convening the Working Group;  
27  
28 (2) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with  
29 primary jurisdiction over health, or the chairperson's  
30 designee, who is requested to serve as co-chairperson  
31 of the Working Group for the purposes of convening the  
32 Working Group;  
33  
34 (3) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;  
35  
36 (4) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance  
37 Commissioner's designee;  
38  
39 (5) The Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the  
40 Department of Human Services, or the Administrator's  
41 designee;  
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- 1           (6) A representative from the Professional and Vocational  
2           Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and  
3           Consumer Affairs, to be appointed by the Director of  
4           Commerce and Consumer Affairs;  
5
- 6           (7) A representative of the Pacific Basin Telehealth  
7           Resource Center of the University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
8           to be appointed by the President of the University of  
9           Hawaii;  
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- 11          (8) A representative from the following organizations:  
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13           (A) Hawaii Medical Association;  
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15           (B) Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association; and  
16  
17           (C) Healthcare Association of Hawaii; and  
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- 19          (9) The following members, who are requested to be invited  
20          by the co-chairpersons;  
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22           (A) Two representatives from health care systems  
23           operating in the State;  
24  
25           (B) Two representatives from health insurers, mutual  
26           benefit societies, or health maintenance  
27           organizations operating in the State; and  
28  
29           (C) Any additional members deemed necessary by the  
30           co-chairpersons; and  
31

32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Telehealth Working Group is  
33          requested to submit a report of its findings and  
34          recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
35          Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
36          the Regular Session of 2024; and  
37

38           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39          Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
40          Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Human  
41          Services, President of the University of Hawaii, Insurance  
42          Commissioner, Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the

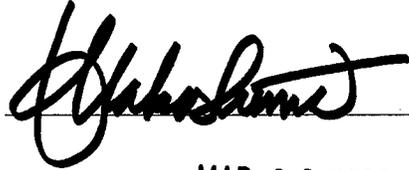


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1 Department of Human Services, President of the Hawaii Medical  
2 Association, President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical  
3 Association, and President and Chief Executive Officer of the  
4 Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:



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