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# HOUSE 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
28 State with greater insight into existing telehealth challenges  
29 and benefits; and



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

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that a Telehealth Working Group is requested to be established 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; and

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

- (1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee, who shall serve as co-chairperson of the the working group;
- (2) A representative from the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, who shall serve as co-chairperson of the working group;
- (3) The Insurance Commissioner, or the Insurance Commissioner's designee;
- (4) The Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services, or the Administrator's designee;
- (5) A representative from the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, to be appointed by the Licensing administrator of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division;
- (6) A representative of the Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center of the University of Hawaii at Manoa,



1 to be appointed by the President of the University of  
2 Hawaii;

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4 (7) A representative from the following organizations:

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6 (A) Hawaii Medical Association;

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8 (B) Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association; and

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10 (C) Hawaii Health Information Exchange; and

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12 (8) The following members, who shall be invited by the co-  
13 chairpersons;

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15 (A) Two representatives from health care systems  
16 operating in the State;

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18 (B) Three representatives from health insurers,  
19 mutual benefit societies, or health maintenance  
20 organizations operating in the State; and

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22 (C) Any additional members deemed necessary by the  
23 co-chairpersons; and  
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Telehealth Working Group is  
26 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
27 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
28 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
29 the Regular Session of 2025; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, President  
33 and Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of  
34 Hawaii, Insurance Commissioner, Administrator of the Med-QUEST  
35 Division of the Department of Human Services, Licensing  
36 Administrator of the Professional and Vocational Licensing  
37 Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,  
38 President of the University of Hawaii, President of the Hawaii  
39 Medical Association, President of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical  
40 Association, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health  
41 Information Exchange, and the Chief Executive Officers of health



1 care systems, health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and  
2 health maintenance organizations operating in the State.  
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