

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE 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



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 Senate of the Thirty-second  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
12 House of Representatives concurring, that a Telehealth Working  
13 Group is requested to be established to examine the impact of  
14 widespread telehealth adoption during the COVID-19 pandemic and  
15 identify public policy initiatives at the federal and state  
16 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;  
42



- 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;  
10
- 11          (8) A representative from the following organizations:  
12            (A) Hawaii Medical Association;  
13            (B) Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association; and  
14            (C) Healthcare Association of Hawaii; and  
15
- 16          (9) The following members, who are requested to be invited  
17            by the co-chairpersons;  
18            (A) Two representatives from health care systems  
19            operating in the State;  
20            (B) Two representatives from health insurers, mutual  
21            benefit societies, or health maintenance  
22            organizations operating in the State; and  
23            (C) Any additional members deemed necessary by the  
24            co-chairpersons; and  
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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 2025; 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: \_\_\_\_\_

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and difficult to decipher, but it appears to be a name with a prominent initial.