
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND BOARD OF PHARMACY TO SUPPORT THE LANAI
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER'S TELEPHARMACY PILOT DEMONSTRATION
AND RESEARCH PROJECT AS A METHOD OF EXPANDING THE
ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the State's federally qualified health centers
2 (FQHCs) provide safety net services to underinsured and
3 uninsured individuals throughout Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, these services include the provision of low-cost
6 prescription drugs through the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program
7 (340B); and
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9 WHEREAS, state law prohibits the filling, compounding, or
10 receipt of prescription drugs unless a registered pharmacist is
11 personally and immediately in charge of the pharmacy; and
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13 WHEREAS, because the number of patients of some neighbor
14 island health centers is too small to make employing a full-time
15 pharmacist cost-effective, these health centers provide pharmacy
16 services through contract pharmacies; and
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18 WHEREAS, this solution presents complications because of
19 the small populations of certain neighbor island communities;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, for example, the only FQHC on the island of Lanai
23 must contract with a pharmacy on the island of Maui for 340B
24 pharmacy services; and
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1 WHEREAS, nevertheless, one FQHC situated in a rural area
2 with a small population desires to add pharmacist services to
3 those already offered to patients; and
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5 WHEREAS, in January 2021, the Lanai Community Health Center
6 (LCHC) received the approval of the Board of Pharmacy to conduct
7 a pilot demonstration and research project for innovative
8 applications in the practice of pharmacy; and
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10 WHEREAS, under this project, a licensed pharmacist located
11 on the island of Maui supervised LCHC staff working at LCHC's
12 campus on the island of Lanai via two-way, real-time,
13 audiovisual telecommunications in the receipt, filling, and
14 dispensing of prescriptions to patients at the LCHC campus; and
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16 WHEREAS, before the pilot project began, the Board of
17 Pharmacy required LCHC to obtain a pharmacy license for its LCHC
18 campus, which necessitated review, inspection, and prior
19 approval by the Board and the Department of Public Safety's
20 Narcotics Enforcement Division to ensure that all controlled
21 substances were adequately secured and monitored at all times;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, the LCHC telepharmacy pilot project commenced on
25 June 9, 2022, processing 5,838 total prescriptions for 1,124
26 patients under the pilot project, or a monthly average of 486.5
27 prescriptions processed as of June 15, 2023; and
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29 WHEREAS, these patients received their prescriptions and
30 refills more quickly than if they had needed to wait for the
31 medications to arrive through the mail; and
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33 WHEREAS, the medications were also less expensive because
34 of LCHC's participation in 340B; and
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36 WHEREAS, because the only retail pharmacy on Lanai is not a
37 340B participant, the discounts would not otherwise have been
38 available; and
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40 WHEREAS, on June 15, 2023, the Board of Pharmacy informed
41 LCHC that the statutory authority for the Board to conduct the



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1 pilot project was not absolute and that at some point, state law
2 must be amended to authorize telepharmacy; and

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4 WHEREAS, based on the success and beneficial results of the
5 pilot project, the innovative practice of telepharmacy should be
6 made permanent and authorized statutorily; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
10 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Governor and
11 Board of Pharmacy are urged to support the Lanai Community
12 Health Center's telepharmacy pilot demonstration and research
13 project as a method of expanding the accessibility and
14 affordability of prescription drugs to vulnerable populations
15 and rural communities throughout the State; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
18 Pharmacy is requested to report on the LCHC's telepharmacy pilot
19 demonstration and research project, including expressing an
20 official position on whether the Board recommends that
21 telepharmacy be authorized statutorily; and

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
24 Pharmacy is requested to submit this report, including any
25 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
26 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
30 of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Chairperson of the Board of
31 Pharmacy, Mayor of the County of Maui, Interim Executive
32 Director of the Lanai Community Health Center, and Chief
33 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association.

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OFFERED BY:



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