

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's residents
2 deserve universal and equitable access to affordable,
3 high-quality healthcare. The Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act,
4 enacted in 1974; state health insurance program, enacted in
5 1989; and the State's successful medquest program are examples
6 of Hawaii's tradition of innovation in healthcare system reform.
7 However, further reforms are needed to address current gaps in
8 residents' access to healthcare and health insurance. In 2024,
9 approximately eighty thousand Hawaii residents are uninsured.

10 The legislature recognizes that many of the State's
11 residents face numerous barriers to accessing healthcare and
12 health insurance. These include high insurance costs for
13 individuals and employers; confusing regulatory and
14 administrative requirements; clear disparities in health
15 outcomes and quality of care; and growing stresses on the
16 healthcare workforce. Addressing these barriers requires the
17 State to make a renewed commitment to guaranteeing universal



1 healthcare and health insurance coverage, streamlining
2 administrative costs, and modernizing Hawaii's health system.

3 The legislature also recognizes that the state health
4 planning and development agency was established to administer
5 state health planning and cost containment activities. The
6 agency is also the designated recipient of the data necessary to
7 understand healthcare costs, quality of care issues, community
8 health conditions, and healthcare disparities.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a task
10 force, known as Hui Hoomana, to be convened by the state health
11 planning and development agency, in coordination with the
12 department of health, department of human services, and
13 insurance commissioner. The purpose of the task force is to
14 identify actionable priorities and financial resources to offer
15 the State's residents universal and equitable access to
16 affordable, high-quality healthcare and health insurance.

17 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Hui Hoomana task
18 force, to be led by the state health planning and development
19 agency in coordination with the department of health, department
20 of human services, and insurance commissioner. The task force
21 shall comprise the following voting members; provided that



1 non-governmental members shall be invited by the chair of the
2 task force to participate:

3 (1) The administrator of the state health planning and
4 development agency, or the administrator's designee;

5 (2) The director of health, or the director's designee;

6 (3) The director of human services, or the director's
7 designee;

8 (4) The insurance commissioner, or the commissioner's
9 designee;

10 (5) The president of the Hawaii chapter of the National
11 Association of Social Workers, or the president's
12 designee;

13 (6) The president and chief executive officer of the
14 Hawaii Medical Services Association, or the president
15 and chief executive officer's designee;

16 (7) The president of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and
17 Hospitals in Hawaii, or the president's designee;

18 (8) The president and chief executive officer of the
19 Healthcare Association of Hawaii, or the president and
20 chief executive officer's designee;



- 1 (9) The chief executive officer of the Hawaii Primary Care
2 Association, or the chief executive officer's
3 designee;
- 4 (10) The executive director of the Hawaii Medical
5 Association, or the executive director's designee;
- 6 (11) The president of the Hawaii Nurses Association, or the
7 president's designee;
- 8 (12) The president and chief executive officer of the
9 Queen's Health System, or the president and chief
10 executive officer's designee;
- 11 (13) The president and chief executive officer of Hawaii
12 Pacific Health, or the president and chief executive
13 officer's designee;
- 14 (14) The chief executive officer of the Hawaii Health
15 Services Corporation, or the chief executive officer's
16 designee;
- 17 (15) The chair of the Accountable Health Care Alliance of
18 Rural Oahu, or the chair's designee;
- 19 (16) The chief executive officer of Papa Ola Lokahi, or the
20 chief executive officer's designee;



1 (17) The chief executive officer of AlohaCare, or the chief
2 executive officer's designee;

3 (18) The administrator of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health
4 Benefits Trust Fund, or the administrator's designee;

5 (19) The state director of the American Association of
6 Retired Persons Hawaii, or the state director's
7 designee;

8 (20) The dean of the university of Hawaii John A. Burns
9 school of medicine, or the dean's designee;

10 (21) The president of the Hawaii Pharmacists Association,
11 or the president's designee; and

12 (22) One member from each county, to be selected by the
13 county's respective mayor.

14 (b) The following shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio
15 members:

16 (1) The governor's chief of staff, or the chief of staff's
17 designee;

18 (2) The chair of the senate committee on health and human
19 services, or the chair's designee;

20 (3) The chair of the house of representatives committee on
21 health and homelessness, or the chair's designee;



- 1 (4) Two members selected by the state health planning and
2 development agency from its statewide health
3 coordinating council or its plan development
4 committee;
- 5 (5) The director of public safety, or the director's
6 designee;
- 7 (6) One member from the office of rural health, selected
8 by the director of health;
- 9 (7) The administrator of the executive office on aging, or
10 the administrator's designee;
- 11 (8) The attorney general, or the attorney general's
12 designee;
- 13 (9) The superintendent of the Hawaii department of
14 education, or the superintendent's designee; and
- 15 (10) The director of commerce and consumer affairs, or the
16 director's designee.
- 17 (c) At the initial meeting of the Hui Hoomana task force,
18 which shall occur no later than thirty days after the effective
19 date of this Act, its members shall elect a chair, vice chair,
20 and any other necessary officers from among its members.

1 (d) A majority of the voting members shall constitute a
2 quorum to do business.

3 (e) The Hui Hoomana task force shall meet no less
4 frequently than quarterly but may meet as often as the members
5 consider necessary.

6 (f) The task force shall develop:

7 (1) A comprehensive plan, including a prioritized list of
8 actionable tasks, for the State to offer universal
9 access to high-quality healthcare and health insurance
10 at costs that are affordable for individuals,
11 employers, state and county governments, and unions;

12 (2) A strategy and timeline for carrying out the
13 actionable tasks identified in the comprehensive plan;
14 and

15 (3) A financial plan for securing the private, state, and
16 federal funding needed to implement the comprehensive
17 plan.

18 (g) Members of the Hui Hoomana task force shall serve
19 without compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable
20 expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the
21 performance of their duties.



1 (h) The Hawaii state health planning and development
2 agency shall submit a preliminary report of the task force's
3 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
5 the regular session of 2025 and a final report before the
6 regular session of 2025 session is adjourned.

7 (i) The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2025.

8 SECTION 3. It is not the intent of the legislature for
9 this Act to jeopardize the receipt of any federal assistance or
10 aid. If this Act is found to be in conflict with federal
11 requirements that are a prescribed condition for the allocation
12 of federal funds to the State, this Act shall be deemed void.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

14

INTRODUCED BY:

Kurt Furell



S.B. NO. 2876

Report Title:

Healthcare; Health Insurance; Task Force; Reports

Description:

Establishes the Hui Hoomana task force to identify actionable priorities and financial resources to offer the State's residents universal access to affordable, high-quality healthcare and health insurance. Requires reports to the Legislature. Dissolves the task force on 7/1/2025.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

