
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO
EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ARTS-BASED SOCIAL PRESCRIBING
WITHIN PUBLIC INSURANCE, PRIVATE INSURANCE, AND PREPAID
HEALTH CARE PLANS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, mental and behavioral health conditions, including
2 depression and anxiety, continue to affect a significant portion
3 of Hawaii's population and contribute to increased health care
4 utilization, reduced quality of life, and workforce impacts; and
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6 WHEREAS, social prescribing is a health care approach in
7 which physicians and other licensed health care providers refer
8 patients to non-clinical, community-based services to address
9 mental, emotional, and social determinants of health; and
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11 WHEREAS, arts-based social prescribing allows health care
12 providers to prescribe participation in structured arts and
13 cultural activities-such as music, visual arts, dance, theater,
14 and other creatives practices-as part of a treatment plan for
15 certain mental and behavioral health conditions; and
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17 WHEREAS, evidence from other jurisdictions suggests that
18 arts-based social prescribing may improve mental health
19 outcomes, reduce reliance on medication, increase patient
20 engagement, and lower overall health care costs; and
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22 WHEREAS, Hawaii's health care system includes a combination
23 of public insurance programs, including the Med-QUEST program;
24 private health insurers, such as the Hawaii Medical Service
25 Association; and employer-based prepaid health care plans
26 regulated under chapter 393, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
27

28 WHEREAS, studying arts-based social prescribing across Med-
29 QUEST, private insurance, and prepaid health care plans would



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1 allow the State to evaluate differences in coverage,
2 reimbursement, utilization, and cost effectiveness across
3 Hawaii's unique multi-payer system; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rich cultural and artistic communities
6 present an opportunity to design culturally responsive,
7 community-based interventions that support mental health and
8 well-being; now, therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
12 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Health is
13 requested to convene a working group, serving as its chair, to
14 examine the feasibility, effectiveness, and potential cost
15 savings of implementing arts-based social prescribing within
16 public insurance programs, private health insurance, and prepaid
17 health care plans in the State; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
20 requested to invite representatives of the following entities to
21 participate in the working group:
22

- 23 (1) The Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division;
- 24
- 25 (2) Private insurers operating in the State;
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- 27 (3) Prepaid health care plans operating in the State;
- 28
- 29 (4) The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts;
- 30
- 31 (5) Health care providers operating in the State;
- 32
- 33 (6) Community-based arts organizations operating in the
34 State; and
- 35
- 36 (7) Other entities as the chair deems necessary; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
39 to:
40

- 41 (1) Examine the legal, regulatory, and administrative
42 issues and other feasibility considerations



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1 surrounding the reimbursement of arts-based social
2 prescribing under the Med-QUEST program, private
3 health insurance, and prepaid health care plans;

4
5 (2) Determine the potential impacts of arts-based social
6 prescribing on mental health outcomes, health care
7 utilization, and costs;

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9 (3) Consider data collection and evaluation methods for
10 the reimbursement of arts-based social prescribing
11 under the Med-QUEST program, private health insurance,
12 and prepaid health care plans;

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14 (4) Consider opportunities for pilot programs involving
15 Med-QUEST beneficiaries, privately insured
16 individuals, and prepaid health care plan enrollees;
17 and

18
19 (5) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
20 including any proposed legislation or pilot programs,
21 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
22 the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
25 on June 30, 2027; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
29 who in turn is requested to transmit copies to private insurers,
30 prepaid health care plans, and health care providers operating
31 in the State; Director of Human Services; Med-QUEST Division
32 Administrator; and Executive Director of the State Foundation on
33 Culture and the Arts, who in turn is requested to transmit
34 copies to community-based arts organizations operating in the
35 State.

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37
38 OFFERED BY:



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