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## HOUSE 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  
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28           WHEREAS, studying arts-based social prescribing across Med-  
29 QUEST, private insurance, and prepaid health care plans would  
30 allow the State to evaluate differences in coverage,



1 reimbursement, utilization, and cost effectiveness across  
2 Hawaii's unique multi-payer system; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rich cultural and artistic communities  
5 present an opportunity to design culturally responsive,  
6 community-based interventions that support mental health and  
7 well-being; now, therefore,

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

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is  
19 requested to invite representatives of the following entities to  
20 participate in the working group:

- 21  
22 (1) The Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division;  
23  
24 (2) Private insurers operating in the State;  
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26 (3) Prepaid health care plans operating in the State;  
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28 (4) The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts;  
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30 (5) Health care providers operating in the State;  
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32 (6) Community-based arts organizations operating in the  
33 State; and  
34  
35 (7) Other entities as the chair deems necessary; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
38 to:

- 39  
40 (1) Examine the legal, regulatory, and administrative  
41 issues and other feasibility considerations  
42 surrounding the reimbursement of arts-based social



1           prescribing under the Med-QUEST program, private  
2           health insurance, and prepaid health care plans;

3  
4           (2) Determine the potential impacts of arts-based social  
5           prescribing on mental health outcomes, health care  
6           utilization, and costs;

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

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

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18          (5) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
19          including any proposed legislation or pilot programs,  
20          to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
21          the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and  
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23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved  
24           on June 30, 2027; and  
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26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
27           Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, who in turn  
28           is requested to transmit copies to private insurers, prepaid  
29           health care plans, and health care providers operating in the  
30           State; Director of Human Services; Med-QUEST Division  
31           Administrator; and Executive Director of the State Foundation on  
32           Culture and the Arts, who in turn is requested to transmit  
33           copies to community-based arts organizations operating in the  
34           State.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 16 2026

