
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE PHYSICIAN
SHORTAGE IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a shortage of
2 physicians and forecasts by the American Association of Medical
3 Colleges indicate that the United States is projected to
4 experience a shortage of approximately 160,000 physicians by
5 2025; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Hawaii is not immune to this fact; studies of the
8 physician workforce in Hawaii demonstrate extreme shortages of
9 primary care specialties, most notably in rural areas; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the rising demand on the health care system in
12 Hawaii due to population growth, aging, and the prevalence of
13 chronic disease call for an increase in the existing physician
14 base; and

15
16 WHEREAS, health care systems across the country rely on
17 foreign medical school graduates to help meet physician hiring
18 needs in primary care, especially in the three practice
19 specialties that are in high demand -- internal medicine, family
20 medicine, and pediatric medicine; and

21
22 WHEREAS, although foreign medical school graduates are in
23 high demand, they must go through demanding Hawaii training and
24 licensing requirements including completing accredited
25 internship and residency training programs in Hawaii; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the process to become licensed and practice in
28 Hawaii is too difficult or too costly for many foreign medical
29 school graduates, resulting in the graduates accepting other
30 jobs in the health care industry such as nursing positions or
31 accepting entry-level service jobs; now, therefore,



H.C.R. NO. 192

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Director of
4 Health is requested to create a task force to address the
5 physician shortage in Hawaii; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
8 consider and make recommendations regarding:

- 9
- 10 (1) The ongoing assessment and planning of the physician
11 workforce in Hawaii;
 - 12
13 (2) The recruitment and retention of physicians,
14 especially for the physician workforce serving rural
15 and medically underserved areas of the State;
 - 16
17 (3) The training and licensing requirements that may
18 preclude a foreign medical school graduate from
19 practicing in Hawaii; and
 - 20
21 (4) The opportunities for foreign medical school graduates
22 to be accepted into internship and residency training
23 programs in Hawaii; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
26 requested to invite the following parties to serve as members of
27 the task force:

- 28
- 29 (1) A representative from the Department of Health;
 - 30
31 (2) A representative from the John A. Burns School of
32 Medicine;
 - 33
34 (3) A representative from the Philippine Medical
35 Association of Hawaii;
 - 36
37 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Medical Association;
 - 38
39 (5) A representative from the Comprehensive Health Centers
40 in Hawaii;
- 41



H.C.R. NO. 192

- 1 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Health Systems
- 2 Corporation; and
- 3
- 4 (7) Any other individual that the Director of Health deems
- 5 appropriate; and
- 6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall
 8 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary
 9 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
 10 of their official duties; and

11
 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 13 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 14 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 15 to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
 19 Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School Of
 20 Medicine, President of the Philippine Medical Association of
 21 Hawaii, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems
 22 Corporation, President of the Hawaii Medical Association, and
 23 the Medical Directors of the various Comprehensive Health
 24 Centers in Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

Fanny M. Lark

Clara
John W. [unclear]
Richard [unclear]
Bob [unclear]

Alan A. [unclear]
Emily [unclear]
Karl Wood
[unclear]
[unclear]

