
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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,
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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, that the Director of Health is requested to
4 create a task force to address the physician shortage in Hawaii;
5 and

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

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

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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:

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- 29 (1) A representative from the Department of Health;
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31 (2) A representative from the John A. Burns School of
32 Medicine;
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34 (3) A representative from the Philippine Medical
35 Association of Hawaii;
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37 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Medical Association;
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39 (5) A representative from the Comprehensive Health Centers
40 in Hawaii;
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1 (6) A representative from the Hawaii Health Systems
2 Corporation; and
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4 (7) Any other individual that the Director of Health deems
5 appropriate; and
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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
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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
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Dean of the
19 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School Of Medicine, President
20 of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, Chief Executive
21 Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, President of
22 the Hawaii Medical Association, and the Medical Directors of the
23 various Comprehensive Health Centers in Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

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John M. [unclear]
Rick [unclear]
[unclear]

with a relative
Cindy [unclear]
[unclear]
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