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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF  
THE PHYSICIAN NETWORKS ON ALL ISLANDS OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, there is a significant shortage of physicians in  
2 the State, particularly on the neighbor islands; and  
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4 WHEREAS, this shortage has been verified through the  
5 canvassing of physicians in Hawaii in the annual physician  
6 workforce assessment, which the John A. Burns School of Medicine  
7 at the University of Hawaii submits to the Legislature pursuant  
8 to Act 18, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, as amended by  
9 Act 186, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, as amended by Act 40,  
10 Session Laws of Hawaii 2017; and  
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12 WHEREAS, members of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the  
13 State of Hawaii considered legislation to encourage an increase  
14 in the number of physicians providing care to the State's  
15 population; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Hawaii,  
18 through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, has  
19 submitted proposed legislation regulating health provider  
20 network adequacy requirements; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
23 placed on insurance providers the responsibility of maintaining  
24 adequate networks of health care providers; and  
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26 WHEREAS, insurance providers in Hawaii declare existing  
27 health provider networks to be adequate; and  
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29 WHEREAS, patients, particularly those living on neighbor  
30 islands, contend that they experience extended wait times for  
31 physician appointments because of a shortage of physicians  
32 within a convenient geographic range; and



1           WHEREAS, patients who live on neighbor islands contend that  
2 they are required to make regular airline trips to Oahu, at  
3 significant personal cost, to receive specialty care because of  
4 a lack of specialist physicians on their home islands; now,  
5 therefore,  
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7           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
8 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
9 of 2018, that the Insurance Commissioner is requested to assess  
10 the adequacy of the physician networks serving Medicaid/QUEST  
11 and EUTF covered patients on all islands of the State; and  
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13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the assessment,  
14 the Insurance Commissioner is requested to seek cooperation and  
15 information from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the  
16 University of Hawaii and the comprehensive health insurance  
17 providers in the State; and  
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19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Insurance Commissioner is  
20 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
22 Legislature no later than January 1, 2019; and  
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24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and  
26 Consumer Affairs, Insurance Commissioner, Dean of the John A.  
27 Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii, President  
28 of Hawaii Medical Service Association, President of Kaiser  
29 Permanente Hawaii, and President of Hawaii Medical Association.

