
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department
2 of health for administrative purposes a rural health task force.

3 The task force shall consist of the following members:

4 (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,
5 who shall serve as the chairperson;

6 (2) The director of human services, or the director's
7 designee;

8 (3) The rural health coordinator of the office of primary
9 care and rural health of the department of health;

10 (4) The supervisor of the Maui public health nursing
11 section of the department of health, or the
12 supervisor's designee;

13 (5) The supervisor of the Molokai public health nursing
14 office of the department of health, or the
15 supervisor's designee;



1 (6) The supervisor of the Lanai public health nursing
2 office of the department of health, or the
3 supervisor's designee; and

4 (7) One representative from each of the following
5 federally qualified health care centers and rural
6 health care facilities, to be invited by the
7 chairperson:

8 (A) Hana Health;

9 (B) Molokai General Hospital;

10 (C) Lanai Community Health Center;

11 (D) Malama I Ke Ola Health Center; and

12 (E) Molokai Community Health Center.

13 (b) The task force shall prepare and develop solutions
14 for, and make recommendations regarding, the recruitment of
15 registered nurses, accountability and management of registered
16 nurse retention, and facility-specific needs for the health care
17 sector in rural areas of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. The task
18 force shall base its plans and solutions on studies and data
19 related to improving the recruitment of registered nurses in
20 rural areas and retention of registered nurses based on a nurse-



1 to-patient ratio. The duties of the task force shall include
2 but are not limited to:

3 (1) Considering the needs of rural health care facilities
4 in Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;

5 (2) Managing the ratio of registered nurses to patients in
6 each rural health care facility in Maui, Molokai, and
7 Lanai;

8 (3) Developing recommendations for affordable workforce
9 housing to manage retention of registered nurses;

10 (4) Surveying the demand for telehealth-based medical
11 direction;

12 (5) Considering further retention options, including
13 travel nurses;

14 (6) Analyzing the impact that nurse retention has on rural
15 health care facilities; and

16 (7) Researching current best practices for retaining
17 registered nurses.

18 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without
19 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and
20 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in
21 carrying out their official duties pursuant to this Act.



1 (d) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
2 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 the regular session of 2023.

5 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2023.

6 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.

7



Report Title:

Department of Health; Rural Health; Task Force; Registered Nurses; Nurse Retention; Recruitment

Description:

Establishes the rural health task force within the department of health to prepare and develop solutions and make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Requires the rural health task force to submit a report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2023. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD2)

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