

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A CERTIFICATION
PROCESS, AN OVERSIGHT BOARD, AND A REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS
FOR SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, community health workers are an integral part of
2 Hawaii's healthcare workforce; and
3

4 WHEREAS, community health workers serve diverse communities
5 including low-income, underserved rural areas, all ethnicities,
6 children, adults, families, elderly individuals, uninsured
7 individuals, homeless individuals, immigrants, and migrant
8 workers; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics
11 projected community health workers to be one of the fastest
12 growing occupations; and
13

14 WHEREAS, local and state health departments, community
15 based organizations, hospitals, clinics, foundations, and
16 researchers increasingly recognize the important contributions
17 of community health workers, such as promoting the health of
18 low-income and at risk communities; and
19

20 WHEREAS, according to a 2015 report to the Maryland General
21 Assembly, community health workers are trusted frontline public
22 health workers who have a close understanding of the community
23 being served; and
24

25 WHEREAS, this trusting relationship enables community
26 health workers to serve as a liaison between health and social
27 services and the community to facilitate access to services and
28 improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery;
29 and
30

31 WHEREAS, community health workers build individual and
32 community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-



1 sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach,
2 community education, informal counseling, social support, and
3 advocacy; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 identifies community health workers as members of a delivery
7 team in a clinical setting - along with doctors, nurses, and
8 social workers, by helping patients navigate the health care
9 system, administer basic health screenings, provide health
10 education, inform communities about available services, and
11 advocate for community change; now, therefore,
12

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
16 Health is requested to establish a certification process,
17 including a retroactive certification process for established
18 community health workers, an oversight board, and a
19 reimbursement process for services provided by community health
20 workers; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
23 encouraged to consult with other state departments, agencies,
24 and community stakeholders for the establishment of the
25 certification process, oversight board, and reimbursement
26 process for services; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
29 encouraged to consider:
30

- 31 (1) A certification process with two tiers of community
32 health workers, which should be designated based on
33 work and education experience;
34
- 35 (2) An oversight body to provide input to the Legislature
36 and oversee community health workers;
37
- 38 (3) A retroactive certification process for community
39 health workers who have completed at least eighty
40 hours of training and two thousand hours of experience
41 prior to the establishment of a certification program;
42 and



1
2 (4) Multiple sources of payment to community health
3 workers,
4
5 when establishing the certification process, oversight board,
6 and reimbursement process for services; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
9 encouraged to consider core competencies such as the following
10 when developing competency standards for certification:

- 11
12 (1) Effective oral and written communication skills;
13
14 (2) Cultural competency;
15
16 (3) Knowledge of local resources and health care system
17 navigation;
18
19 (4) Advocacy and community capacity building skills;
20
21 (5) Care coordination skills;
22
23 (6) Ability to teach skills to promote healthy behavior
24 change;
25
26 (7) Knowledge of outreach methods and strategies;
27
28 (8) Ability to address needs and identify resources;
29
30 (9) Understanding of public health concepts and health
31 literacy;
32
33 (10) Understanding of ethics and confidentiality issues;
34 and
35
36 (11) Ability to use and understand health information
37 technology; and
38
39



S.C.R. NO. 100

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:





