

MAR 09 2018

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# SENATE 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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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31 WHEREAS, community health workers build individual and  
32 community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-  
33 sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach,  
34 community education, informal counseling, social support, and  
35 advocacy; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics  
3 identifies community health workers as members of a delivery  
4 team in a clinical setting - along with doctors, nurses, and  
5 social workers, by helping patients navigate the health care  
6 system, administer basic health screenings, provide health  
7 education, inform communities about available services, and  
8 advocate for community change; now, therefore,  
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
12 that the Department of Health is requested to establish a  
13 certification process, including a retroactive certification  
14 process for established community health workers, an oversight  
15 board, and a reimbursement process for services provided by  
16 community health workers; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
19 encouraged to consult with other state departments, agencies,  
20 and community stakeholders for the establishment of the  
21 certification process, oversight board, and reimbursement  
22 process for services; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
25 encouraged to consider:  
26

- 27 (1) A certification process with two tiers of community  
28 health workers, which should be designated based on  
29 work and education experience;  
30  
31 (2) An oversight body to provide input to the Legislature  
32 and oversee community health workers;  
33  
34 (3) A retroactive certification process for community  
35 health workers who have completed at least eighty  
36 hours of training and two thousand hours of experience  
37 prior to the establishment of a certification program;  
38 and  
39  
40 (4) Multiple sources of payment to community health  
41 workers,  
42



1 when establishing the certification process, oversight board,  
2 and reimbursement process for services; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
5 encouraged to consider core competencies such as the following  
6 when developing competency standards for certification:

- 7  
8 (1) Effective oral and written communication skills;  
9  
10 (2) Cultural competency;  
11  
12 (3) Knowledge of local resources and health care system  
13 navigation;  
14  
15 (4) Advocacy and community capacity building skills;  
16  
17 (5) Care coordination skills;  
18  
19 (6) Ability to teach skills to promote healthy behavior  
20 change;  
21  
22 (7) Knowledge of outreach methods and strategies;  
23  
24 (8) Ability to address needs and identify resources;  
25  
26 (9) Understanding of public health concepts and health  
27 literacy;  
28  
29 (10) Understanding of ethics and confidentiality issues;  
30 and  
31  
32 (11) Ability to use and understand health information  
33 technology; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.  
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OFFERED BY:

