

JAN 24 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND REQUESTING
OVERSIGHT AND CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, community health workers are a key part of the
2 State's healthcare process; and

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4 WHEREAS, community health workers are frontline health
5 workers who have a deep understanding of the communities they
6 serve; and

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8 WHEREAS, community health workers liaise among other health
9 care providers, social service providers, and members of the
10 community to facilitate access to care and services; and

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12 WHEREAS, community health workers work to educate patients
13 and guide them through the health care system; and

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15 WHEREAS, community health workers have provided treatment
16 in major health initiatives, including migrant health programs,
17 AIDS outreach, transitions associated with welfare-to-work
18 programs, and primary care medical homes; and

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20 WHEREAS, community health workers also provide advocacy,
21 outreach, counseling, and culturally appropriate education; and

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23 WHEREAS, community health workers provide valuable
24 resources, especially to rural, low-income, or isolated
25 communities; and

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27 WHEREAS, community health workers may be the main point of
28 contact between medical professionals, patients, and other
29 services; and

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31 WHEREAS, community health worker is a rapidly growing
32 profession, projected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to
33 increase by sixteen percent over the next ten years; and

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35 WHEREAS, community health workers are not currently subject
36 to training and certification requirements; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
4 that the Department of Health is requested to establish an
5 oversight board for community health workers within one year;
6 and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the oversight board is
9 requested to:

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11 (1) Be composed of at least fifty percent community health
12 workers; and
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14 (2) Include a certification board with the power to
15 approve curricula and training programs for community
16 health workers; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the certification board is
19 requested to:

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21 (1) Provide for two tiers of community health worker, with
22 one trainee tier requiring up to eighty hours of
23 training, and a second full certification tier
24 requiring one hundred sixty hours of combined
25 classroom and practical training; and
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27 (2) Offer full certification to any community health
28 worker who has eighty hours or more of training, has
29 two thousand hours or more of experience as a
30 community health worker within the past four years,
31 and meets current standards of competence, who applies
32 within the first two years of the establishment of any
33 certification program; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
36 requested to perform an analysis of the value offered by
37 community health workers, the role that community health workers
38 play in the health care system, and appropriate methods of
39 reimbursement for community health workers, including direct
40 hiring and providing reimbursement through multiple avenues; and
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