A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

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

SECTION 1. In 1998, the legislature passed Act 162, Session Laws of Hawaii 1998, which grants an exemption for practitioners of traditional native Hawaiian healing arts from the state certification process. Instead, the Act allowed the recognition and certification of traditional native Hawaiian healers by a private kupuna council convened by Papa Ola Lokahi, a federally recognized organization that aims to promote comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention services and to maintain and improve the health status of native Hawaiians. The federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988 and 1992 recognizes that more certified traditional native Hawaiian healing practitioners are essential to native Hawaiian health.

However, since 1988, only one out of the six kupuna councils convened by Papa Ola Lokahi, the Waianae Community Kupuna Council, has established a certification system for traditional native Hawaiian healers. As such, the number of
certified practitioners of traditional native Hawaiian healing arts remains limited. This, compounded with the extensive time, care, and attention that traditional native Hawaiian healing treatments require, adds to the troubles of potential patients who already have difficulty locating and determining a qualified traditional native Hawaiian healing practitioner.

The legislature finds that it is in the public interest that there be an option for interim certification provided by the native Hawaiian health community to both current and future traditional native Hawaiian healing practitioners as they continue the process to be statutorily recognized and authorized in the medical field.

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to create a statewide supplementary certification option for practitioners of traditional native Hawaiian healing arts, until such time that the appropriate council adopts a certification system.

SECTION 2. (a) Papa Ola Lokahi shall partner with the traditional native Hawaiian healing community and other interested individuals in Hawaii to establish a supplemental certification board that will certify practitioners of traditional native Hawaiian healing arts based on the
certification standards established by the Waianae Community Kupuna Council.

(b) Notwithstanding section 453-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a practitioner of traditional native Hawaiian healing arts may be certified through the supplementary certification board referenced in this section.

SECTION 3. The statewide supplemental certification board formed pursuant to section 2(a) of this Act shall submit to the legislature an annual report on the traditional native Hawaiian healing practitioners it has certified along with any findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that on December 31, 2024, section 3 of this Act shall be repealed.
Report Title:
Certification; Traditional Hawaiian Healing Practices; Supplemental Certification Board

Description:
Creates a statewide supplementary certification board for the practitioners of traditional native Hawaiian healing arts, where practitioners may be certified to practice. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.