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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE ANALYSIS ON  
LICENSING AND/OR CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

1           WHEREAS, during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, many  
2 rural areas in the State were disconnected and unable to receive  
3 adequate health care services; and  
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5           WHEREAS, when rural communities struggled with  
6 connectivity, transportation, and financial obligations,  
7 community health workers provided a critical lifeline to  
8 ensuring that residents' health care needs were met; and  
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10           WHEREAS, with the rapidly changing global health pandemic,  
11 rural communities that have limited health care services are at  
12 a greater risk of being deprived of access to adequate, timely,  
13 and life-saving health care services; and  
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15           WHEREAS, families living in rural areas comprise diverse  
16 communities, including varying incomes, level of service  
17 availability, living arrangements, and citizenship status; and  
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19           WHEREAS, many of these families face language and cultural  
20 barriers that require specialized access to assistance and  
21 technology regarding health care issues; and  
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23           WHEREAS, with deepening food insecurity, increasing housing  
24 instability, slow job recovery, and the replacement of many  
25 in-person health services with telehealth services, the need for  
26 community health workers to connect rural communities to systems  
27 of care is greater than ever; and  
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29           WHEREAS, increasing the number of community health care  
30 workers and standardizing their certification and training will  
31 help address these issues; now, therefore,  
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33           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,



1 that the Auditor is requested to conduct a sunrise analysis of  
2 the licensing of and/or a certification of community health care  
3 workers; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor's analysis is  
6 requested to include a recommendation on a training program for  
7 community health workers to help address the social determinants  
8 of poor health that disproportionately affect low-income,  
9 minority populations, which are magnified during times of  
10 crisis; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to set  
13 forth the probable effects of implementing a certification  
14 and/or training program and to assess whether the program is  
15 consistent with the policies set forth in section 26H-2, Hawaii  
16 Revised Statutes, and whether there are alternative appropriate  
17 forms of certification and training; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
20 submit findings of the program analysis to the Legislature no  
21 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
22 Session of 2022; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Auditor, and Director  
26 of Human Services.

