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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE THE  
SCOPE AND SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE HEALTH EDUCATOR  
PROFESSION.

1           WHEREAS, health educators often work with hospital  
2 patients, elementary and secondary school-aged children, and  
3 community residents receiving primary, secondary, and tertiary  
4 prevention levels of health care; and  
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6           WHEREAS, credentialing of health educators first began in  
7 1988 with the establishment of the National Commission for  
8 Health Education Credentialing, Inc., an international  
9 organization that awards entry- and advanced-level credentials;  
10 and  
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12           WHEREAS, credentialing is voluntary, and often persons who  
13 do not have any credentials and who do not meet the minimal  
14 level of competency hold themselves out to be health educators;  
15 and  
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17           WHEREAS, there are over 63,000 health educator jobs in the  
18 United States, and this occupational field is expected to grow  
19 by thirty-seven percent by the year 2020; and  
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21           WHEREAS, rapid occupational growth requires proactive  
22 government regulation to assure the standard of care in Hawaii  
23 is maintained by professionally trained, competent, and ethical  
24 professionals; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the health educator profession is not currently  
27 regulated in Hawaii; and  
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29           WHEREAS, regulation of health educators will help ensure  
30 that:  
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- 1 (1) Recipients of their specialized work receive quality
- 2 services at the primary, secondary, and tertiary
- 3 levels of health care, including program assessments,
- 4 evaluations, planning and implementation of health
- 5 education services, and professional consultation and
- 6 management services;
- 7
- 8 (2) Health educators meet minimum competency requirements
- 9 in the profession, similar to requirements existing
- 10 for other health care and educational professionals;
- 11 and
- 12
- 13 (3) Members of the public, other members of the
- 14 profession, and the National Commission for Health
- 15 Education Credentialing, Inc., will be able to assist
- 16 in maintaining quality standards in the health
- 17 educator profession by means of reporting ethics
- 18 violations or disciplinary action to the applicable
- 19 state regulatory agency; and
- 20

21 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised  
 22 Statutes, any measure that if enacted, would subject unregulated  
 23 professions and vocations to licensing or other regulatory  
 24 controls shall be referred to the State Auditor for analysis.  
 25 The referral shall be made by Concurrent Resolution that  
 26 identifies a specific legislative bill to be analyzed; and  
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28 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 1098, Regular Session of 2013, contains  
 29 language that requires the State Auditor to conduct a sunrise  
 30 analysis on the regulation of health educators; and  
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32 WHEREAS, testimony relating to the regulation of health  
 33 educators revealed that the Auditor may not be able to gather  
 34 the requisite information to analyze the health educator  
 35 profession because it is unclear what the scope and specific  
 36 duties for health educators are; and  
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38 WHEREAS, a working group should be convened to determine  
 39 the scope and specific duties for health educators; and  
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41 WHEREAS, the determination of the scope and specific duties  
 42 for health educators can then be used as the basis for  
 43 appropriate legislation relating to a sunrise review on the  
 44 licensing and regulation of health educators; now, therefore,



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 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 3 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 4 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Chairs of the  
 5 House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, Senate  
 6 Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and House and  
 7 Senate Committees on Education are requested to convene a  
 8 working group to determine the scope and specific duties of the  
 9 health educator profession; and

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 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the determination by the  
 12 working group regarding the scope and specific duties of the  
 13 health educator profession is intended to be used as the basis  
 14 for appropriate legislation relating to a sunrise review on the  
 15 licensing and regulation of health educators; and

16  
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairs of the House  
 18 Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, Senate Committee  
 19 on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and House and Senate  
 20 Committees on Education shall serve as Co-Chairs of the working  
 21 group; and

22  
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is encouraged  
 24 to include representatives from the following entities as  
 25 members of the working group:

- 26  
 27 (1) Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;  
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 29 (2) Department of Health;  
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 31 (3) University of Hawaii System;  
 32  
 33 (4) Hawaii Pacific University;  
 34  
 35 (5) Hawaii Pacific Health; and  
 36  
 37 (6) Other interested stakeholders who are familiar with  
 38 the background, credentials, and education  
 39 requirements of health educators and who are able to  
 40 provide other necessary information to the working  
 41 group, including but not limited to the functions  
 42 performed by health educators and who should be  
 43 licensed as health educators in the State; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group  
2 not be considered state employees based solely upon their  
3 participation in the working group; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
6 to report its findings and recommendations, including any  
7 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
8 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the State Auditor,  
12 Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Health,  
13 Chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,  
14 President of Hawaii Pacific University, and President and Chief  
15 Executive Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health.  
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