
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes, any measure that if enacted, would subject unregulated
3 professions and vocations to licensing or other regulatory
4 controls shall be referred to the State Auditor for analysis.
5 The referral shall be made by Resolution that identifies a
6 specific legislative bill to be analyzed; and

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8 WHEREAS, H.B. No. 1098, Regular Session 2013, contains
9 language that requires the State Auditor to conduct a sunrise
10 analysis on the regulation of health educators; and

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12 WHEREAS, testimony relating to the regulation of health
13 educators revealed that the Auditor may not be able to gather
14 the requisite information to analyze the health educator
15 profession because it is unclear what the scope and specific
16 duties for health educators are; and

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18 WHEREAS, health educators often work with hospital
19 patients, elementary and secondary school-aged children, and
20 community residents receiving primary, secondary, and tertiary
21 prevention levels of health care; and

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23 WHEREAS, credentialing of health educators first began in
24 1988 with the establishment of the National Commission for
25 Health Education Credentialing, Inc., an international
26 organization that awards entry- and advanced-level credentials;
27 and

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29 WHEREAS, credentialing is voluntary, and often persons who
30 do not have any credentials and who do not meet the minimal
31 level of competency hold themselves out to be health educators;
32 and



1 WHEREAS, there are over 63,000 health educator jobs in the
2 United States, and this occupational field is expected to grow
3 by 37 percent by the year 2020; and
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5 WHEREAS, rapid occupational growth requires proactive
6 government regulation to assure the standard of care in Hawaii
7 is maintained by professionally trained, competent, and ethical
8 professionals; and
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10 WHEREAS, regulation of health educators will help ensure
11 that:
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- 13 (1) Recipients of their specialized work receive quality
14 services at the primary, secondary, and tertiary
15 levels of health care, including program assessments,
16 evaluations, planning and implementation of health
17 education services, and professional consultation and
18 management services;
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- 20 (2) Health educators meet minimum competency requirements
21 in the profession, similar to requirements existing
22 for other health care and educational professionals;
23 and
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- 25 (3) Members of the public, other members of the
26 profession, and the National Commission for Health
27 Education Credentialing, Inc., will be able to assist
28 in maintaining quality standards in the health
29 educator profession by means of reporting ethics
30 violations or disciplinary action to the applicable
31 state regulatory agency; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
35 Session of 2013, that the State Auditor is requested to convene
36 a working group to determine the scope and specific duties of
37 the health educator profession to allow the State Auditor to
38 conduct a sunrise study before regulations and licensing
39 requirements are proposed; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Auditor is encouraged
2 to include representatives from the following entities as
3 members of the working group:

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5 (1) Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
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7 (2) Department of Health;
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9 (3) University of Hawaii System;
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11 (4) Hawaii Pacific University;
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13 (5) Hawaii Pacific Health; and
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15 (6) Any other organization the State Auditor deems
16 appropriate to contribute to the working group,
17 including health educators; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
20 to report its findings and recommendations, including any
21 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days
22 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the State Auditor, Director of
26 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Director of Health, Chair of the
27 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of
28 Hawaii Pacific University, and President and Chief Executive
29 Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health.

