

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CERTIFICATION PROCESS, OVERSIGHT BOARD, AND REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, community health workers comprise one of the
2 country's fastest growing occupations, according to the Bureau
3 of Labor Statistics; and

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5 WHEREAS, community health workers act as integral members
6 of care teams in clinical settings by educating communities,
7 administering basic care, and helping individuals to navigate
8 the health care system; and

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10 WHEREAS, community health workers serve diverse communities
11 including underserved rural areas and areas with low-income,
12 uninsured, homeless, immigrant, and migrant individuals; and

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14 WHEREAS, community health workers often have a close
15 understanding of and relationship with the areas they serve,
16 enabling them to act as trusted liaisons between service
17 providers and at-risk community members; and

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19 WHEREAS, the State's growing community health workforce
20 would benefit from clearer guidance, oversight, and support;
21 now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
24 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
25 Department of Health is requested to provide analysis and
26 recommendations on the establishment of a certification process,
27 oversight board, and reimbursement process for community health
28 workers; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
2 urged to consider:

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- 4 (1) Analyzing existing state policies on the certification
5 of community health workers;
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- 7 (2) Studying the feasibility of designating a state agency
8 or community health workers association to provide
9 oversight and input to the Legislature;
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- 11 (3) Recommending legislation to drive and support the
12 certification process; and
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- 14 (4) Recommending best practices and policies related to
15 community health workers, including recommendations on
16 proposed contract language and budget management; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
19 urged to consider the feasibility and advisability of the
20 following competency standards for certification:

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- 22 (1) Oral and written communication skills;
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- 24 (2) Cultural competency;
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- 26 (3) Ability to identify local resources and navigate the
27 local health care system;
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- 29 (4) Advocacy and community building skills;
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- 31 (5) Teaching skills, specifically the ability to teach and
32 promote healthy behaviors;
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- 34 (6) Knowledge of outreach methods and strategies;
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- 36 (7) Health care and public health literacy;
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- 38 (8) Understanding of ethics and confidentiality issues;
39 and
- 40
- 41 (9) Health information technology competency; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
2 encouraged to consult with other state departments, agencies,
3 and community stakeholders in developing its recommendations;
4 and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
7 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
8 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
9 the Regular Session of 2021; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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OFFERED BY:



