
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

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

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

14 However, since 1988, only one out of the six kupuna
15 councils convened by Papa Ola Lokahi, the Waianae Community
16 Kupuna Council, has established a certification system for
17 traditional native Hawaiian healers. As such, the number of



1 certified practitioners of traditional native Hawaiian healing
2 arts remains limited. This, compounded with the extensive time,
3 care, and attention that traditional native Hawaiian healing
4 treatments require, adds to the troubles of potential patients
5 who already have difficulty locating and determining a qualified
6 traditional native Hawaiian healing practitioner.

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

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

17 SECTION 2. (a) Papa Ola Lokahi shall partner with the
18 traditional native Hawaiian healing community and other
19 interested individuals in Hawaii to establish a supplemental
20 certification board that will certify practitioners of
21 traditional native Hawaiian healing arts based on the



1 certification standards established by the Waianae Community
2 Kupuna Council.

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

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

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on upon approval;
15 provided that on December 31, 2024, section 3 of this Act shall
16 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)

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