
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EMPLOY THE TEAM 6B CONTACT TRACING TEAM AS PERMANENT STAFF AND HIRE OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH INEQUITIES THAT EXIST AND CREATE BETTER ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

1 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
2 communities have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19
3 more than any other communities in the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, these communities together make up approximately
6 twenty-one percent of the population but accounted for over
7 fifty percent of the State's COVID-19 cases in 2020, and
8 approximately thirty percent of cases in 2021 and 2022; and
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10 WHEREAS, due to a lack of comprehensive plans by the State
11 for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in the Native Hawaiian and
12 Pacific Islander communities, community leaders and
13 organizations mobilized by forming various task forces to meet
14 the immediate needs of families within their communities who
15 were most heavily affected; and
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17 WHEREAS, as Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders share a
18 colonial past that has led to generational trauma and socio-
19 economic hardships, COVID-19 added to these inequities and
20 social injustices; and
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22 WHEREAS, in October 2020, the Department of Health created
23 a contact tracing investigation team known as Team 6B to provide
24 critical outreach to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander
25 communities; and
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1 WHEREAS, Team 6B was innovative and different as it
2 provided culturally appropriate engagement in the communities'
3 primary languages and at a level that had not been seen
4 previously; and

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6 WHEREAS, throughout the past two years, Team 6B has done a
7 tremendous amount of work in the community from creating
8 culturally appropriate educational webinars that are in the
9 communities' primary languages, hosting testing and vaccination
10 pods that are inclusive of social support services to assist
11 with community participation, and providing much needed data
12 collection and disaggregation; and

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14 WHEREAS, the hiring of underserved and marginalized
15 community members by the Department of Health proved successful
16 and drastically decreased the number of cases in the Native
17 Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and provided a level
18 of disaggregation that was not previously present; and

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20 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the importance of creating
21 culturally relevant programs and supports diverse hiring
22 practices to address the inequity that exists for many
23 underserved and marginalized communities; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
28 urged to employ the Team 6B contact tracing team as permanent
29 staff and hire other members from the Native Hawaiian and
30 Pacific Islander communities that have been responding to the
31 pandemic since March 2020; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
34 urged to continue hiring members from the Native Hawaiian and
35 Pacific Islander communities in an effort to address the health
36 inequities that exist for these underserved communities and
37 create better access to culturally relevant programs for Native
38 Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
41 requested to create a diverse hiring plan and submit a report of



1 its progress to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health and
6 the Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development
7 Agency.
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