

MAR 11 2022

SENATE 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 by together making
4 up approximately twenty-one percent of the population but having
5 accounted for over fifty percent of the State's COVID-19 cases
6 in 2020, and approximately thirty percent in 2021 and 2022; and
7

8 WHEREAS, due to a lack of comprehensive plans by the State
9 for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in the Native Hawaiian and
10 Pacific Islander communities, community leaders and
11 organizations mobilized by forming various task forces to meet
12 the immediate needs of families within their communities who
13 were most heavily affected; and
14

15 WHEREAS, as Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders share a
16 colonial past that has led to generational trauma and socio-
17 economic hardships, COVID-19 added to these inequities and
18 social injustices; and
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20 WHEREAS, in October 2020, the Department of Health created
21 a contact tracing investigation team known as Team 6B to provide
22 critical outreach to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander
23 communities; and
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25 WHEREAS, Team 6B was innovative and different as it
26 provided culturally appropriate engagement in the communities'



1 primary languages and at a level that had not been seen
2 previously; and
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4 WHEREAS, throughout the past two years, Team 6B has done a
5 tremendous amount of work in the community from creating
6 educational webinars that are in the communities' primary
7 languages and culturally appropriate, hosting testing and
8 vaccination pods that are inclusive of social support services
9 to assist with community participation, and provided much needed
10 data collection and disaggregation; and
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12 WHEREAS, the hiring of underserved and marginalized
13 community members by the Department of Health proved successful
14 and drastically decreased the number of cases in the Native
15 Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and provided a level
16 of disaggregation that was not previously present; and
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18 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the importance of creating
19 culturally relevant programs and supports diverse hiring
20 practices to address the inequity that exists for many
21 underserved and marginalized communities; now, therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
26 Health is urged to employ the Team 6B contact tracing team as
27 permanent staff and hire other members from the Native Hawaiian
28 and Pacific Islander communities that have been responding to
29 the pandemic since March 2020; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
32 urged to continue hiring members from the Native Hawaiian and
33 Pacific Islander communities in an effort to address the health
34 inequities that exist for these underserved communities and to
35 create better access to culturally relevant programs for Native
36 Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
39 requested to create a diverse hiring plan and to submit a report
40 of its progress to the Legislature no later than twenty days
41 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
42



S.C.R. NO. 127

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Director of Health and
3 the Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development
4 Agency.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. J. L.", is written over a horizontal line.