
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I TO ESTABLISH CULTURALLY
APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM TO TRAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
AND TO INCORPORATE DISTANCE-LEARNING FOR NEIGHBOR ISLAND
STUDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, for more than twenty years, community health
2 workers have improved the quality of life for residents in the
3 State by providing a critical service to connect disadvantaged
4 populations with culturally appropriate health care resources;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, over two thousand community health workers
8 actively engage with local communities through community-based
9 organizations, local health care facilities, clinics, or
10 hospitals; and
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12 WHEREAS, there is an imminent need to recognize the work
13 and contributions of community health workers in the State; and
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15 WHEREAS, a certification program for community health
16 workers administered by the Department of Commerce and Consumer
17 Affairs is needed to sustain community health workers as a
18 professional health care career path in Hawai'i; and
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20 WHEREAS, in rural, isolated communities throughout the
21 State, community health workers are invaluable, as residents
22 rely on community health workers to drive long distances through
23 difficult terrain to provide health care resources; and
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25 WHEREAS, as Hawai'i's communities, from urban to rural, have
26 diverse, unique experiences, there is a growing need for
27 curriculum used for community health worker courses to be
28 culturally appropriate for the communities they serve; and
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30 WHEREAS, utilizing culturally appropriate curriculum allows
31 community health workers to engage with their communities while



1 also learning best practices, training techniques, and relevant
2 topics that focus on a community-based approach; and
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4 WHEREAS, as some of Hawai'i's communities experience
5 inequities with access to health care workers and educational
6 opportunities, providing equitable access to community health
7 worker trainings for neighbor islands through distance-learning
8 programs may provide further opportunities for Hawai'i's people
9 aspiring to enter the health care profession; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
13 that the University of Hawai'i is requested to:
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15 (1) Establish culturally appropriate curriculum to train
16 community health workers;
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18 (2) Incorporate distance-learning options for neighbor
19 island students interested in the community health
20 worker profession; and
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22 (3) Identify other methods to align community health
23 worker programs with the needs of the communities they
24 serve; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i is
27 requested to submit a report of its findings and
28 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
29 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
30 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Commerce and
34 Consumer Affairs, Auditor, President of the University of Hawai'i
35 System, Chancellor of Kapi'olani Community College, and Director
36 of Hawai'i Community College - Pālanui.

