
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING LICENSING OR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
PARALEGALS.

1 WHEREAS, paralegals do substantial, important, and
2 challenging legal work assisting lawyers and the public, often
3 performing similar functions as attorneys; and
4

5 WHEREAS, there are no laws in Hawaii that regulate
6 education, work experience, licensing, or certification
7 requirements for paralegals employed in the State; and
8

9 WHEREAS, paralegals can, and should, play an integral role
10 in the delivery of cost-effective legal and law-related
11 services; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United
14 States Department of Labor has recognized that it is no longer
15 common for an individual to become a paralegal without first
16 receiving formal education and training in the paralegal field;
17 and
18

19 WHEREAS, Kapiolani Community College of the University of
20 Hawaii System currently offers a paralegal program that is
21 approved by and under consideration for accreditation by the
22 American Bar Association; and
23

24 WHEREAS, additional means are available for practicing
25 paralegals to obtain certification such as the National
26 Federation of Paralegal Association's Paralegal Advanced
27 Competency Exam; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics has
30 projected employment growth of 17 percent for paralegals
31 nationwide over the ten-year period between 2012 and 2022; and
32



H.R. NO. 117

1 WHEREAS, the legal profession is expected to undergo a
2 shift toward increased use of paralegal labor in conjunction
3 with a broadened scope of work and range of tasks performed by
4 paralegal professionals; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2017, that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is
9 requested to convene a working group to determine the
10 feasibility of establishing licensing or certification
11 requirements for paralegals in Hawaii; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be comprised
14 of the following members:
15

- 16 (1) The Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, or the
17 Director's designee, who shall serve as the chair of
18 the working group;
19
- 20 (2) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's
21 designee;
22
- 23 (3) An individual representing the Hawaii Access to
24 Justice Commission, appointed by the Chief Justice of
25 the Hawaii Supreme Court;
26
- 27 (4) A representative from Kapiolani Community College,
28 appointed by the Chancellor of Kapiolani Community
29 College;
30
- 31 (5) An individual representing the Hawaii State Bar
32 Association;
33
- 34 (6) An individual representing the Hawaii Paralegal
35 Association;
36
- 37 (7) The Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of
38 Hawaii, or the Executive Director's designee;
39



H.R. NO. 117

- 1 (8) The Chief Executive Officer of the Domestic Violence
2 Action Center of Hawaii, or the Chief Executive
3 Officer's designee; and
4
- 5 (9) An individual who is a practicing attorney who employs
6 paralegals, to be appointed by the chair of the
7 working group; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
10 to submit its findings and recommendations, including any
11 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
12 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chief Justice of the
16 Hawaii Supreme Court, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
17 President of the University of Hawaii, Chancellor of Kapiolani
18 Community College, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Bar
19 Association, President of the Hawaii Paralegal Association,
20 Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and Chief
21 Executive Officer of the Domestic Violence Action Center of
22 Hawaii.
23
24
25

OFFERED BY:

MAR 10 2017

