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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING PAPA OLA LŌKAHI TO ASSESS THE IMPACT ON SOCIAL,  
FINANCIAL, AND CULTURAL INTEGRITY OF PROVIDING HEALTH  
COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE-BASED  
ACTIVITIES.

1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians have among the highest rates of  
2 obesity, hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular and  
3 cerebrovascular diseases, certain cancers, and mortality rates  
4 of any ethnic group in Hawaii; and  
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6 WHEREAS, studies indicate that many Native Hawaiians feel  
7 alienated from and have a mistrust of the present health care  
8 system, and prefer more culturally acceptable means of managing  
9 their health; and  
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11 WHEREAS, section 226-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, sets  
12 objectives and policies of the Hawaii state plan for socio-  
13 cultural advancement of health with specific language that  
14 requires the prioritization of programs, services,  
15 interventions, and activities that address social determinants  
16 of health intended to improve Native Hawaiian health and well-  
17 being and to reduce disparities among disproportionately  
18 affected demographic groups; and  
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20 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian practices, including  
21 hula and canoe paddling, have been shown to be effective in the  
22 areas of weight management, cardiovascular health, diabetes  
23 management, and chronic kidney disease management; and  
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25 WHEREAS, this body believes that coverage for certain  
26 Native Hawaiian culture-based practices will substantially  
27 reduce illness and assist in the maintenance of good health for  
28 the people of this State; now, therefore,  
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
32 that Papa Ola Lōkahi is requested to conduct an assessment of



1 the impact on social, financial, and cultural integrity of  
2 providing coverage for Native Hawaiian culture-based practices,  
3 as well as Native Hawaiian healing practices as referenced in  
4 section 453-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that have shown to be  
5 effective in managing weight, cardiovascular health, diabetes,  
6 and other chronic diseases; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Papa Ola Lōkahi is requested to  
9 submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature,  
10 including any necessary implementing legislation, no later than  
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
12 2020; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of Papa Ola  
16 Lōkahi.

