HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE ANALYSIS OF MUSIC THERAPISTS.

WHEREAS, the practice of music therapy by unqualified individuals can have negative effects upon public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, individuals who can benefit from music therapy include those having mental health needs, developmental and learning disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and other aging related conditions, substance abuse problems, brain injuries, physical disabilities, or acute and chronic pain, including mothers in labor; and

WHEREAS, music therapy is used in hospitals to alleviate patients' pain in conjunction with anesthesia or pain medication; elevate patients' mood and counteract depression; promote movement for physical rehabilitation; calm or sedate patients, often to induce their sleep; counteract patients' apprehension or fear; and lessen patients' muscle tension for the purpose of relaxation; and

WHEREAS, music therapy is used in nursing homes to increase or maintain elderly persons' level of physical, mental, social, and emotional functioning, and the sensory and intellectual stimulation of music can help maintain elderly persons' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, music therapy is used in schools to provide music therapy services listed in an Individualized Education Plan for mainstreamed special learners, and music learning is used to strengthen nonmusical areas such as communication skills and physical coordination skills, which are important for daily life; and

WHEREAS, music therapy is used in psychiatric facilities to allow persons having mental health needs to explore their personal feelings, make positive changes in their mood and emotional states, and enable them to have a sense of control over their lives through successful experiences, practice problem solving, and resolve conflicts, thereby leading to their having stronger family and peer relationships; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a sunrise analysis of the regulation of music therapists, including a recommendation of whether the regulation should be through licensure, certification, or registration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report of findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

OFFERED BY:

FEB 1 3 2020