

MAR 05 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO PLAN THE CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO HELP ADDRESS THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF POOR HEALTH THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT LOW-INCOME, MINORITY POPULATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, during the coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19)
2 pandemic, many rural areas in the State were disconnected and
3 unable to receive adequate healthcare services; and
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5 WHEREAS, when rural communities struggled with
6 connectivity, transportation, and financial obligations,
7 community health workers provided a critical lifeline to
8 ensuring that residents' healthcare needs were met; and
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10 WHEREAS, with the rapidly changing global health pandemic,
11 rural communities that have limited healthcare services are at a
12 greater risk of being deprived of access to adequate, timely,
13 and life-saving healthcare services; and
14

15 WHEREAS, families living in rural areas comprise diverse
16 communities, including low-income, underserved rural areas, all
17 ethnicities, children, adults, families, elderly individuals,
18 uninsured individuals, homeless individuals, immigrants, and
19 migrant workers; and
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21 WHEREAS, many of these families face language and cultural
22 barriers that require access to assistance and technology
23 regarding healthcare issues; and
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25 WHEREAS, with deepening food insecurity, increasing housing
26 instability, slow job recovery, and the replacement of many in-
27 person health services with telehealth services, the need for
28 community health workers to connect communities to systems of
29 care is greater than ever; and
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31 WHEREAS, increasing the number of community healthcare
32 workers and standardizing their certification and training will
33 help address these issues; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
4 that the Department of Human Services is requested to establish
5 a community health worker certification task force to plan the
6 certification and training process for community health workers
7 to help address the social determinants of poor health that
8 disproportionately affect low-income, minority populations,
9 which are magnified during times of crisis; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services
12 or the Director's designee is requested to serve as the
13 chairperson of the task force; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Services
16 is requested to invite the following individuals to serve as the
17 members of the task force:

- 18
19 (1) One community health worker from each county;
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21 (2) A representative from the University of Hawaii System;
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23 (3) A representative from the University of Hawaii Office
24 of Public Health Studies;
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26 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Public Health
27 Institute;
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29 (5) A representative from the Hawaii Public Housing
30 Authority;
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32 (6) A representative from the Department of Human Services
33 Med-QUEST Division;
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35 (7) A representative from the Hawaii Health Systems
36 Corporation;
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38 (8) A representative from the University of Hawaii West
39 Oahu; and
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41 (9) A representative from the University of Hawaii School
42 of Nursing and Dental Hygiene; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
3 submit a report detailing the status of the plan for the
4 certification and training process for community health workers,
5 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
6 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
7 of 2022; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services,
11 Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority,
12 Director of the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division,
13 mayor of each county, President of the University of Hawaii
14 System, and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Hawaii
15 Public Health Institute.

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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DK', is written over a horizontal line.

