
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE ANALYSIS ON
LICENSING AND/OR CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

1 WHEREAS, during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, many
2 rural areas in the State were disconnected and unable to receive
3 adequate health care 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' health care needs were met; and
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10 WHEREAS, with the rapidly changing global health pandemic,
11 rural communities that have limited health care services are at
12 a greater risk of being deprived of access to adequate, timely,
13 and life-saving health care services; and
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15 WHEREAS, families living in rural areas comprise diverse
16 communities, including varying incomes, level of service
17 availability, living arrangements, and citizenship status; and
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19 WHEREAS, many of these families face language and cultural
20 barriers that require specialized access to assistance and
21 technology regarding health care issues; and
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23 WHEREAS, with deepening food insecurity, increasing housing
24 instability, slow job recovery, and the replacement of many
25 in-person health services with telehealth services, the need for
26 community health workers to connect rural communities to systems
27 of care is greater than ever; and
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29 WHEREAS, increasing the number of community health care
30 workers and standardizing their certification and training will
31 help address these issues; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
4 requested to conduct a sunrise analysis of the licensing of
5 and/or a certification of community health care workers; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor's analysis is
8 requested to include a recommendation on a training program for
9 community health workers to help address the social determinants
10 of poor health that disproportionately affect low-income,
11 minority populations, which are magnified during times of
12 crisis; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to set
15 forth the probable effects of implementing a certification
16 and/or training program and to assess whether the program is
17 consistent with the policies set forth in section 26H-2, Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes, and whether there are alternative appropriate
19 forms of certification and training; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
22 submit findings of the program analysis to the Legislature no
23 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
24 Session of 2022; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Auditor,
28 and Director of Human Services.

