
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP MINIMUM PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, social determinants of health are non-medical
2 factors affecting health, such as socioeconomic status and
3 geographic location; and
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5 WHEREAS, social determinants of health include the
6 conditions in which individuals are born and raised, learn,
7 work, live, and age; and
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9 WHEREAS, social determinants encompass economic policies,
10 development agendas, social norms, social policies, race and
11 ethnicity, climate change, and political structures; and
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13 WHEREAS, community health workers are trusted members of
14 local communities who share lived experiences with their
15 neighbors and peers and are experts in navigating complex
16 systems of care and serving as a link between clinical and
17 community-based services and the individuals who need them most;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, the efforts of community health workers have been
21 shown to reduce the burden of illness among individuals with
22 chronic diseases and to improve these individuals' ability to
23 manage their own conditions; and
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25 WHEREAS, the participation of community health workers can
26 improve personal health literacy, which is the degree to which
27 individuals can find, understand, and use information and
28 services to inform health-related decisions and actions for
29 themselves and others; and
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1 WHEREAS, federal, state, and local jurisdictions across the
2 nation take into account quality assurance and minimum
3 professional standards for community health workers; and
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5 WHEREAS, however, Hawaii has not yet developed such quality
6 assurance and minimum professional standards; now, therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2025, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a
11 task force to identify and develop minimum professional
12 standards for community health worker training programs; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
15 requested to invite representatives from the following
16 stakeholder groups to serve on the task force:
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- 18 (1) The Department of Health, the representative of whom
19 is requested to serve as the chairperson of the task
20 force;
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- 22 (2) The Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human
23 Services;
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- 25 (3) University of Hawaii - West Oahu;
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- 27 (4) Kapiolani Community College;
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- 29 (5) One community health worker from each county;
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- 31 (6) The Hawaii Community Health Worker Association;
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- 33 (7) The Hawaii Public Health Institute;
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- 35 (8) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii;
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- 37 (9) Papa Ola Lokahi;
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- 39 (10) The Hawaii Primary Care Association;
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- 41 (11) The Hawaii Association of Health Plans; and
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1 (12) Any additional individuals with appropriate
 2 specialized expertise, if recommended by task force
 3 members and approved by the chairperson of the task
 4 force; provided that the members identified in
 5 paragraphs (1) to (11) constitute at least fifty
 6 percent of the members of the task force; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 10 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
 11 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 12 2026; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 15 requested to provide any necessary administrative support to the
 16 task force, including the preparation and drafting of the
 17 report; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of
 21 Human Services, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the
 22 University of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawaii,
 23 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu, Chancellor
 24 of Kapiolani Community College, Chairperson of the Hawaii
 25 Community Health Worker Association, Chief Executive Officer of
 26 the Hawaii Public Health Institute, President and Chief
 27 Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Chief
 28 Executive Officer of Papa Ola Lokahi, Chief Executive Officer of
 29 the Hawaii Primary Care Association, and President of the Board
 30 of Directors of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans.
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OFFERED BY: 
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