S.C.R. NO. 16

SENATE CONCURRENT 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
4
5 WHEREAS, social determinants of health include the
6 conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age;
7 and
8
9 WHEREAS, social determinants encompass economic policies,
10 development agendas, social norms, social policies, race and
11 ethnicity, climate change, and political structures; and
12
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 people who need them most; and
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19 WHEREAS, community health workers have been shown to reduce
20 the burden of illness among people with chronic diseases and to
21 improve their ability to manage their own conditions; and
22
23 WHEREAS, working with community health workers can improve
24 one's personal health literacy, which is the degree to which
25 individuals can find, understand, and use information and
26 services to inform health-related decisions and actions for
27 themselves and others; and
28
29 WHEREAS, federal, state, municipal, and local jurisdictions
30 across the country consider quality assurance and minimum
31 standards for community health workers; now, therefore,
32

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1   BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Health is requested to establish a task force to identify and
5 develop minimum professional standards for community health
6 worker training programs; and

8   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
9 requested to invite representatives of the following
10 stakeholders to serve on the task force:

12   (1)   A representative from the Department of Health, who
13   shall serve as the chair of the task force;

15   (2)   One community health worker from each county;

17   (3)   A representative from the Hawaii Public Health
18   Institute;

20   (4)   A representative from the Hawaii Public Housing
21   Authority;

23   (5)   A representative from the Med-QUEST Division of the
24   Department of Human Services;

26   (6)   A representative from the University of Hawaii - West
27   Oahu;

29   (7)   A representative from Kapiolani Community College;

31   (8)   A representative from the Healthcare Association of
32   Hawaii;

34   (9)   A representative from the Hawaii Association of Health
35   Plans; and

37   (10)   Any additional members with appropriate specialized
38   expertise recommended by task force members and
39   approved by the chair; and

1   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member be made subject to
2 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the
3 member's participation in the task force; and
4
5   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
6 requested to provide administrative support to the task force;
7 and
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9   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
10 submit a report to the Legislature, including any
11 recommendations and proposed legislation, no later than twenty
12 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
13
14   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
16 who is in turn requested to transmit a copy to each stakeholder
17 invited to the task force.
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19
20
              OFFERED BY: _____