
SENATE 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 people are born, grow, work, live, and age;
7 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 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
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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
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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,
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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,
3 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a task
4 force to identify and develop minimum professional standards for
5 community health worker training programs; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
8 requested to invite representatives of the following
9 stakeholders to serve on the task force:
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- 11 (1) A representative from the Department of Health, who
12 shall serve as the chair of the task force;
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- 14 (2) One community health worker from each county;
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- 16 (3) A representative from the Hawaii Public Health
17 Institute;
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- 19 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Public Housing
20 Authority;
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- 22 (5) A representative from the Med-QUEST Division of the
23 Department of Human Services;
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- 25 (6) A representative from the University of Hawaii - West
26 Oahu;
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- 28 (7) A representative from Kapiolani Community College;
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- 30 (8) A representative from the Healthcare Association of
31 Hawaii;
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- 33 (9) A representative from the Hawaii Association of Health
34 Plans;
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- 36 (10) A representative from Papa Ola Lokahi;
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- 38 (11) A representative from the Native Hawaiian and Pacific
39 Islander Community Health Worker Alliance;
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- 41 (12) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care
42 Association;



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2 (13) A representative from a community-based grassroots
3 organization, such as Ka'u Rural Health Community
4 Association, Inc.; and
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6 (14) Any additional members with appropriate specialized
7 expertise recommended by task force members and
8 approved by the chair; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member be made subject to
11 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the
12 member's participation in the task force; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
15 requested to provide administrative support to the task force;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
19 submit a report to the Legislature, including any
20 recommendations and proposed legislation, no later than twenty
21 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, who is in
25 turn requested to transmit a copy to each stakeholder invited to
26 the task force.

