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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO HOME HEALTH LICENSING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to authorize the  
2 department of health to accept accreditation from an  
3 accreditation organization or a certification organization  
4 recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as  
5 demonstration that a licensed home health agency is in  
6 compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State.

7       SECTION 2. Section 321-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9       "**§321-91 Program of home health services.** (a) The  
10 department of health is authorized to establish and administer a  
11 program to provide home health services, pursuant to the  
12 provisions of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. Home  
13 health services shall mean ancillary paramedical services  
14 rendered in the patient's home, and shall include[7] but not be  
15 limited to[7] professional nursing care, physiotherapy,  
16 occupational therapy, speech and hearing therapy, medical social  
17 services, and home health aide services. The authority of the



1 department [~~hereunder~~] under this subsection shall be liberally  
2 construed in order that the State may receive the maximum  
3 benefits of [~~said~~] Title XVIII.

4 (b) A home health agency that is licensed by the  
5 department of health and accredited or certified by an  
6 accreditation organization or a certification organization  
7 recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services may  
8 be used to demonstrate the home health agency's compliance with  
9 all licensing inspections required by the State. The home  
10 health agency may be exempt from a licensing inspection on a  
11 continuing basis throughout the term of the accreditation or  
12 certification under the following conditions:

13 (1) The home health agency provides the department of  
14 health with a certified copy of the home health  
15 agency's official accreditation or certification  
16 report;

17 (2) The home health agency continuously holds full  
18 accreditation or certification and provides the  
19 department of health with a certified copy of the home  
20 health agency's official accreditation or  
21 certification report; and



1       (3) The home health agency holds a current and valid state  
2       license.

3       (c) The department of health may conduct inspections and  
4       investigation of home health agencies exempt from licensing  
5       inspections pursuant to subsection (b) regarding complaints,  
6       adverse accreditation or certification findings, or periodic  
7       validation surveys.

8       (d) Information contained in reports of survey and  
9       official accreditation or certification letters made by an  
10       accreditation organization or a certification organization  
11       recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
12       that are used in determining compliance with licensing  
13       requirements pursuant to this section shall be public  
14       information.

15       (e) All other records maintained by the department of  
16       health for the purposes of this section shall be governed by  
17       chapter 92F."

18       SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19       and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



H.B. NO. 1540

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 14 2026



# H.B. NO. 1540

**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Home Health Agencies; Accreditation;  
Certification; Licensing Inspections; Public Information

**Description:**

Authorizes the Department of Health to accept accreditation from an accreditation organization or a certification organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as demonstration that a licensed home health agency is in compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State. Specifies conditions under which a home health agency may be exempt from a licensing inspection on a continuing basis. Requires information obtained in reports of survey and accreditation or certification letters to be public information.

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