
A BILL FOR AN ACT

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[~~r~~] but not be
15 limited to[~~r~~] 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:

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JAN 14 2026



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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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