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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO SPEEDILY REBUILD A SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

1           WHEREAS, many graduates of the University of Hawaii School  
2 of Public Health programs in maternal and child health,  
3 epidemiology, environmental health, nutrition, gerontology,  
4 international health, health administration, and community  
5 health development and education play vital roles in protecting  
6 the health of Hawaii's population and the health of those in our  
7 wider Asia Pacific region; and

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9           WHEREAS, in 1999, the University of Hawaii School of Public  
10 Health was the first and only school of public health in the  
11 history of the United States to lose its accreditation; and

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13           WHEREAS, in 2000, the University of Hawaii School of Public  
14 Health was incorporated into the John A. Burns School of  
15 Medicine as a department of public health studies and  
16 epidemiology; and

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18           WHEREAS, upon closure, the University of Hawaii  
19 administration proposed, and the Board of Regents approved, a  
20 plan to rebuild the school of public health within five years;  
21 and

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23           WHEREAS, the medical school and the department have made  
24 various gains toward public health rebuilding since the closure  
25 of the school of public health, most significantly in gaining  
26 accreditation from the Council on Education in Public Health for  
27 a program in public health with two specializations, namely  
28 epidemiology and social-behavioral health; and

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30           WHEREAS, the university's most notable step in fulfilling  
31 the promise of rebuilding a school of public health within five  
32 years since its closure in 2000 is the recent commitment of



1 Chancellor Peter Englert to fast-tracking the re-establishment  
2 of a school of global and public health on the Manoa campus; and  
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4 WHEREAS, Chancellor Englert has actively sought counsel  
5 from a number of public health stakeholders, including national  
6 and local public health entities and experts, faculty of the  
7 department, the University of Hawaii School of Public Health  
8 Alumni Association, the Hawaii Public Health Association, and  
9 many others; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Chancellor has also publicly affirmed his  
12 commitment by articulating his plans to appoint two advisory  
13 committees to guide the planning of a new school:

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15 (1) An internal Manoa committee that will consist of  
16 University of Hawaii faculty and leadership; and  
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18 (2) An external vision committee that will consist of  
19 local, national, and international public health  
20 experts; and  
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22 WHEREAS, after consultation, Chancellor Englert will  
23 request approval from the Board of Regents to move public health  
24 into "developmental space," similar to the successful process of  
25 public-private partnership used to develop the Academy for  
26 Creative Media; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the speed at which a new, independent school could  
29 become a reality is within a year and a half, pending the  
30 necessary resources; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents approved a \$1,000,000  
33 appropriation in the 2004 supplemental budget request to support  
34 faculty positions for the new school, but this request was not  
35 included in the Governor's budget; and  
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37 WHEREAS, Hawaii is at a crossroads for emerging public  
38 health issues, as there is great potential to sustain a new  
39 school now more than ever; and  
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41 WHEREAS, the health workforce of Hawaii and the Asia  
42 Pacific region was significantly built over decades by the  
43 former school of public health, which typically educated



1 hundreds of professionals per year, as the second largest  
2 graduate program in the University of Hawaii system; and

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4 WHEREAS, studies have shown that a substantial percentage  
5 of that health workforce, especially those in leadership and  
6 mid-level management positions, has retired or is on the verge  
7 of exiting the workforce to retire; and

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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii may face a health workforce crisis if the  
10 training pipeline for health is not reinstated; and

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12 WHEREAS, the potential for obtaining research funds has  
13 grown tremendously over the last few years, and a new school  
14 would give Hawaii more flexibility to respond to local need such  
15 as the ice addiction epidemic, diabetes, and childhood obesity,  
16 and outside needs such as bioterrorism, SARS, and other global  
17 health challenges; and

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19 WHEREAS, public health can be a research magnet but will  
20 forever fall victim to limited funding possibilities as Hawaii  
21 will be ineligible to receive federal research money without a  
22 fully accredited school of global and public health; and

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24 WHEREAS, other states and universities are assuming the  
25 role of public health training and research in Hawaii and the  
26 Asia Pacific region because of the absence of a school of public  
27 health; and

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29 WHEREAS, Hawaii is losing revenue, prestige, and its  
30 logical role of educational leadership in the region in the  
31 absence of a school of public health in the State; now,  
32 therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the  
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
37 Hawaii is urged to speedily rebuild a school of global and  
38 public health; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is  
41 urged to join with other institutions and to work cooperatively  
42 with the military, the Centers for Disease Control, and others  
43 for research dollars and to boost research options and  
44 developmental planning; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and  
4 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Dean of the  
5 John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Chairperson of the  
6 Department of Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology, the  
7 Director of Health, Hawaii's congressional delegation, the  
8 Director General of the World Health Organization, the Director  
9 of the Public Health Practice Program Office of the Centers for  
10 Disease Control, and the Presidents of the University of Hawaii  
11 Public Health Alumni Association and the Hawaii Public Health  
12 Association.

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OFFERED BY: Norman Sakomys