
SENATE 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
33 Chancellor Peter Englert to fast-tracking the re-establishment
34 of a school of global and public health on the Manoa campus; and
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1 WHEREAS, Chancellor Englert has actively sought counsel
2 from a number of public health stakeholders, including national
3 and local public health entities and experts, faculty of the
4 department, the University of Hawaii School of Public Health
5 Alumni Association, the Hawaii Public Health Association, and
6 many others; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Chancellor has also publicly affirmed his
9 commitment by articulating his plans to appoint two advisory
10 committees to guide the planning of a new school:
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- 12 (1) An internal Manoa committee that will consist of
13 University of Hawaii faculty and leadership; and
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- 15 (2) An external vision committee that will consist of
16 local, national, and international public health
17 experts; and
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19 WHEREAS, after consultation, Chancellor Englert will
20 request approval from the Board of Regents to move public health
21 into "developmental space," similar to the successful process of
22 public-private partnership used to develop the Academy for
23 Creative Media; and
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25 WHEREAS, the speed at which a new, independent school could
26 become a reality is within a year and a half, pending the
27 necessary resources; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents approved a \$1,000,000
30 appropriation in the 2004 supplemental budget request to support
31 faculty positions for the new school, but this request was not
32 included in the Governor's budget; and
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34 WHEREAS, Hawaii is at a crossroads for emerging public
35 health issues, as there is great potential to sustain a new
36 school now more than ever; and
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38 WHEREAS, the health workforce of Hawaii and the Asia
39 Pacific region was significantly built over decades by the
40 former school of public health, which typically educated
41 hundreds of professionals per year, as the second largest
42 graduate program in the University of Hawaii system; and
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1 WHEREAS, studies have shown that a substantial percentage
2 of that health workforce, especially those in leadership and
3 mid-level management positions, has retired or is on the verge
4 of exiting the workforce to retire; and

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

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

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

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

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

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
33 that the University of Hawaii is urged to speedily rebuild a
34 school of global and public health; and

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

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Resolution be transmitted to the President and Chancellor of the
44 University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Dean of the John A. Burns



1 School of Medicine, the Chairperson of the Department of Public
2 Health Sciences and Epidemiology, the Director of Health,
3 Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Director General of the
4 World Health Organization, the Director of the Public Health
5 Practice Program Office of the Centers for Disease Control, and
6 the Presidents of the University of Hawaii Public Health Alumni
7 Association and the Hawaii Public Health Association.

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OFFERED BY:

Norman Sakuma Jr

