
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DEVELOP A PHYSICAL THERAPY
AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEGREE PROGRAM WITHIN THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, occupational therapists and physical therapists
2 help individuals improve their health, well-being, and overall
3 lives through treatments that aid individuals in engaging in
4 everyday activities and rehabilitating from ailments or
5 injuries; and

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7 WHEREAS, occupational therapy helps people of all ages
8 address challenges that impair their ability to perform daily
9 life tasks, which can be physical, developmental, emotional, or
10 cognitive related to a traumatic brain injury or a stroke; and

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12 WHEREAS, an occupational therapist can help a client gain
13 greater self-awareness through daily occupations and facilitate
14 a client's ability to create and engage in daily activities,
15 which gives meaning to the person's life; and

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17 WHEREAS, physical therapy treatment can span a wide range
18 of ailments, including such areas as pediatrics, geriatrics,
19 orthopedics, sports medicine, neurology, and cardiopulmonary
20 physical therapy; and

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22 WHEREAS, a physical therapist conducts tests and develops
23 treatment strategies to restore function, improve mobility,
24 relieve pain, and prevent or limit permanent physical
25 disabilities of patients suffering from injuries or diseases;
26 and

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28 WHEREAS, occupational therapy is closely related to
29 physical therapy; and

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31 WHEREAS, physical therapists and occupational therapists
32 often consult with each other, as well as other professionals,



1 including physicians, dentists, nurses, educators, social
2 workers, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists; and
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4 WHEREAS, when one experiences physical or mental illness or
5 injury, it is the job of the occupational therapist or physical
6 therapist to help the individual return to work, family roles,
7 and satisfying life; and
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9 WHEREAS, demand for occupational therapy will increase to
10 address the needs of a growing population of aging adults,
11 children with developmental disabilities, and those who struggle
12 with traumatic injuries and illnesses; and
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14 WHEREAS, additionally, widespread interest in the promotion
15 of health and healthy lifestyles, as well as the number of
16 individuals requiring therapy services, due in part to an aging
17 population, demand for physical therapy and qualified physical
18 therapists will continue to increase over the next several
19 years; and
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21 WHEREAS, although the University of Hawaii at Manoa
22 currently supports a degree program in Kinesiology and Leisure
23 Science, which has been designed to allow students to fulfill
24 the requirements for entry into graduate programs in the area of
25 allied health sciences, including physical therapy and
26 occupational therapy, no separate degree program for either
27 occupational therapy or physical therapy exists at any
28 University of Hawaii campus; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
32 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the University of
33 Hawaii is urged to establish a School of Physical Therapy and
34 Occupational Therapy within the University of Hawaii System; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the programs may be established
37 as separate schools or combined into one school, as deemed
38 appropriate by the University of Hawaii; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii
41 present a report on the formation or reasons for not forming a
42 School of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to the
43 Legislature twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
44 Session of 2008; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
4 University of Hawaii System and the Chairperson of the Board of
5 Regents.
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OFFERED BY:

John M. Mapp
Della A. Belatti
John M. Mapp
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MAR - 8 2007

