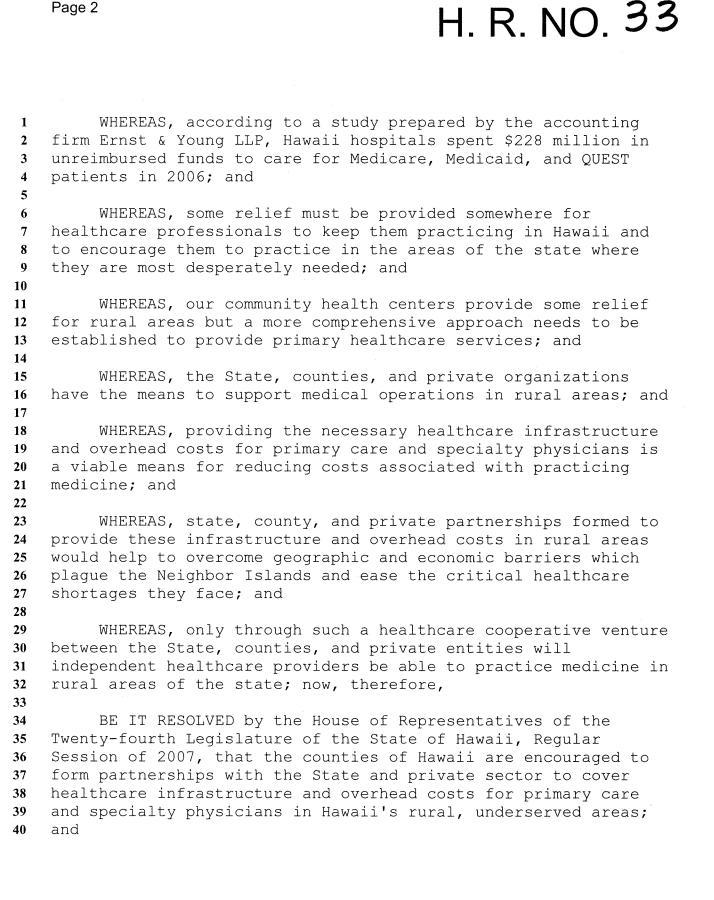
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007 STATE OF HAWAII H. R. NO. 33

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE COUNTIES TO FORM PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE STATE AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO COVER HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND OVERHEAD COSTS FOR PRIMARY CARE AND SPECIALTY PHYSICIANS PRACTICING MEDICINE IN HAWAII'S RURAL AREAS.

WHEREAS, many rural areas of our state especially on our 1 Neighbor Islands have been designated as health professional 2 shortage areas by the federal government; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, a designation as a health professional shortage area may include places with large groups of people who face 6 economic, cultural or linguistic barriers to healthcare or where 7 8 there are too many people in that geographic area to be served by the limited number of health professionals; and 9 10 WHEREAS, there is a critical shortage of all healthcare 11 providers on our Neighbor Islands as Hawaii rapidly loses 12 physicians who leave to practice on the mainland for more money, 13 and many who continue to practice in this state are aging and 14 close to retirement; and 15 16 WHEREAS, Hawaii physicians are overly burdened by medical 17 malpractice premiums that continue to rise sharply especially 18 for orthopedists, general surgeons, and 19 obstetrician/gynecologists; and 20 21 WHEREAS, other states offer physicians better 22 23 reimbursements that are adequate to sustain their practices; and 24 25 WHEREAS, local healthcare facilities are straining to provide their physicians with fair and adequate wages in their 26 attempts to maintain services and retain necessary staff; and 27







7 8

H. R. NO. 33

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Maui, Mayor of the County Kauai, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Governor, Director of Health, and Executive Director of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

MAR - 1 2007

