

MAR 14 2007

## SENATE 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

6  
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

11  
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

16  
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

21  
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

27  
28 WHEREAS, occupational therapy is closely related to  
29 physical therapy; and

30  
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

3  
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

8  
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

13  
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

20  
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,

29  
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
32 House of Representatives 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

35  
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

39  
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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8

OFFERED BY: Theranne Crum Oakland  
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Wong Sakai  
Rosely H. Pae

