

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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,  
33 including physicians, dentists, nurses, educators, social  
34 workers, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists; and  
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1 WHEREAS, when one experiences physical or mental illness or  
2 injury, it is the job of the occupational therapist or physical  
3 therapist to help the individual return to work, family roles,  
4 and satisfying life; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, demand for occupational therapy will increase to  
7 address the needs of a growing population of aging adults,  
8 children with developmental disabilities, and those who struggle  
9 with traumatic injuries and illnesses; and

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11 WHEREAS, additionally, widespread interest in the promotion  
12 of health and healthy lifestyles, as well as the number of  
13 individuals requiring therapy services, due in part to an aging  
14 population, demand for physical therapy and qualified physical  
15 therapists will continue to increase over the next several  
16 years; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, although the University of Hawaii at Manoa  
19 currently supports a degree program in Kinesiology and Leisure  
20 Science, which has been designed to allow students to fulfill  
21 the requirements for entry into graduate programs in the area of  
22 allied health sciences, including physical therapy and  
23 occupational therapy, no separate degree program for either  
24 occupational therapy or physical therapy exists at any  
25 University of Hawaii campus; now, therefore,

26  
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
29 that the University of Hawaii is urged to establish a School of  
30 Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy within the University  
31 of Hawaii System; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the programs may be established  
34 as separate schools or combined into one school, as deemed  
35 appropriate by the University of Hawaii; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii  
38 present a report on the formation or reasons for not forming a  
39 School of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy to the  
40 Legislature twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
41 Session of 2008; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of  
3 Hawaii System and the Chairperson of the Board of Regents.  
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OFFERED BY: Shiranne Chun Oakland

*Shiranne Chun Oakland*  
*James H. Sloan*  
*James H. Sloan Jr.*  
*Nancy S. Sloan*  
*Rosalee H. Sloan*

