

MAR 18 2009

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE INTERIM TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND  
DEVELOP A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRAINING AND RECRUITING PLAN  
FOR RURAL AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, a severe shortage of primary health care providers  
2 currently exists, particularly in the rural and medically  
3 underserved areas of the State; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in order to address Hawaii's health care crisis  
6 and ensure that people living in the rural and medically  
7 underserved areas receive quality health care services, a plan  
8 needs to be developed and implemented to recruit qualified  
9 primary health care providers; and  
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11           WHEREAS, family physicians are well-suited to rural health  
12 care due to the broad scope of their practice, which encompasses  
13 inpatient, outpatient, and nursing home settings, and addresses  
14 acute, chronic, and preventive health across the life cycle; and  
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16           WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of  
17 Medicine currently offers a three-year residency program in  
18 family medicine; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the mission of the family medicine residency  
21 program is to meet the needs of rural and medically underserved  
22 areas and populations in Hawaii in a culturally sensitive and  
23 medically appropriate manner; and  
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25           WHEREAS, family medicine program residents provide not only  
26 health care but also education and outreach at schools and  
27 community events; and  
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29           WHEREAS, presently, family medicine program residents spend  
30 two months in a federally-funded rural health care training  
31 demonstration project, initiated in Hilo in 2006, in which  
32 residents learn how to provide health care to medically



1 underserved patients in rural areas as they rotate among private  
2 physician offices, emergency departments, and the community,  
3 providing outreach and education; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, on July 10, 2007, Act 277 (H.B. No. 1477 H.D. 2,  
6 S.D. 2, C.D. 1) was enacted into law without the Governor's  
7 signature; and  
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9 WHEREAS, Act 277 (2007), appropriated funds to:

- 10  
11 (1) Develop a statewide rural primary health care training  
12 program; and  
13  
14 (2) Support the family medicine residency program of the  
15 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of  
16 Medicine's Department of Family Medicine and Community  
17 Health; and  
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19 WHEREAS, even though Act 277 (2007) was enacted into law,  
20 the Governor has refused to release the funds to implement the  
21 program; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii, Department of Family  
24 Medicine and Community Health, has established the Hilo Rural  
25 Residency Program, an initial effort to align primary care  
26 workforce development with the needs of the State of Hawaii; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the goal of the Hilo Rural Residency Program is to  
29 develop and staff a Family Medicine Center that will become an  
30 accredited Family Medicine Residency with eighteen residents  
31 (six per year); and  
32

33 WHEREAS, the Family Medicine Center will serve as an  
34 interdisciplinary clinical training site for medical students,  
35 residents, nurse practitioner students, nursing students,  
36 pharmacy students and others; and  
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38 WHEREAS, a legislative interim task force should be  
39 convened in order to effectively address Hawaii's health care  
40 crisis in the rural and medically underserved areas of the  
41 State; and  
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43 WHEREAS, in identifying and developing a primary health  
44 care training and recruiting plan for rural and medically



1 underserved areas of the State, the task force should use Act  
2 277 (2007) and the Hilo Rural Residency Program as guidelines in  
3 developing a model for the State; now, therefore,  
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Senate Committee  
8 on Health and the House Committee on Health convene a  
9 legislative interim task force to identify and develop a Hawaii  
10 island model for a primary health care training and recruiting  
11 plan for rural and medically underserved areas of the State; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan shall address both  
14 short-term and long-term goals to ensure that rural and  
15 medically underserved areas of the State have access to  
16 qualified health care providers; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate President and the  
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives are requested to appoint  
20 the chair of the Senate Committee on Health and the chair of the  
21 House Committee on Health, who shall co-chair the task force,  
22 and at a minimum, each of the Senators and Representatives from  
23 the island of Hawaii; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officials are  
26 requested to serve as ex-officio members of the task force: the  
27 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association  
28 or the Chief Executive Officer's designee; the Site Director of  
29 the Hilo Rural Residency Program; the Director of Health or the  
30 Director's designee; and the Director of the University of  
31 Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine or the Director's  
32 designee; and  
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
35 submit a report to the Legislature, including any proposed  
36 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
37 the Regular Session of 2010; and  
38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED certified copies of this Concurrent  
40 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the  
41 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Senate  
42 Committee on Health, the Chair of the House Committee on Health,  
43 the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care  
44 Association, the Site Director of the Hilo Rural Residency



# S.C.R. NO. 158

1 Program, the Director of Health, and the Director of the  
2 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

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OFFERED BY: Bernard Kohli

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