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# SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO COLLEGE  
OF PHARMACY'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING TO  
ESTABLISH THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII AS A BEACON COMMUNITY.

1           WHEREAS, federal funding opportunities for the increased  
2 use of technology in the provision of health care have never  
3 been greater and Hawaii's unique cultural and geographical  
4 position makes it an optimal place to initiate health  
5 information technology projects; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the State Legislature has been on the cutting edge  
8 of bold initiatives to increase access to medical care  
9 throughout the State by supporting the use of telehealth  
10 services and expanding the role of medical providers to practice  
11 at the full extent of their capabilities; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the Big Island of Hawaii has some of the most  
14 rural areas in the entire state and is an ideal community to  
15 develop a sustainable model of health information sharing to  
16 help reduce health care costs, increase quality, and expand  
17 access to care; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the Big Island as a community, led by the  
20 University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy in partnership  
21 with locally-based hospital systems, professional organizations,  
22 health plans, health centers, academic institutions, quality  
23 improvement organizations, and many others, will be pursuing  
24 federal grant moneys to participate in the Beacon Community  
25 Program; and  
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27           WHEREAS, the Beacon Community Program, federally-funded  
28 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will include  
29 \$220,000,000 in grants to build and strengthen health  
30 information technology infrastructure and health information  
31 exchange capabilities, including stronger privacy and security  
32 measures for data exchange; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the Beacon Community Program's goal is to  
2 establish cooperative agreements with communities to build and  
3 strengthen the communities' health information technology  
4 infrastructure and health information exchange capabilities to  
5 achieve measurable improvements in health care quality, safety,  
6 efficiency, and population health; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the Big Island's participation in the Beacon  
9 Community Program will inform efforts throughout the United  
10 States to support the meaningful use of electronic health  
11 records, the primary goal of the federal government's new health  
12 information technology initiative; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the Big Island's participation in the Beacon  
15 Community Program can be seen as a first step in the development  
16 of a statewide health information exchange and can serve as a  
17 learning environment to gain a better understanding of the  
18 issues that will be faced when the State is ready to promote  
19 health information technology on a larger scale; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the Legislature supports locally-based efforts and  
22 collaboration to secure federal funding that will assist in  
23 making Hawaii a model for implementation of health information  
24 technology; now, therefore,  
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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,  
28 that the Legislature express support for the University of  
29 Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy's application to receive a  
30 federally-funded Beacon Community Program grant; and  
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32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the University of  
34 Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy, the Director of Human  
35 Services, the Director of Health, and the members of Hawaii's  
36 congressional delegation.

