
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO'S COLLEGE OF
PHARMACY IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING TO
ESTABLISH A BEACON COMMUNITY ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

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 position, culturally and
4 geographically, make it an optimal place to initiate health
5 information technology projects; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii has been on
8 the cutting edge of bold legislative initiatives to increase
9 access to medical care throughout the State by supporting the
10 innovative use of telehealth services and expanding the role of
11 medical providers to practice at the full extent of their
12 capability; and
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14 WHEREAS, the island of Hawaii has some of the most rural
15 areas in the entire State and is an ideal community to develop a
16 sustainable model of health information sharing to help reduce
17 health care costs, increase quality and expand access to care;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, the island of Hawaii, as a community, led by the
21 University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy in partnership
22 with locally based hospital systems, professional organizations,
23 health plans, health centers, academic institutions, utility
24 improvement organizations, and many others, will be pursuing
25 federal grant monies to be designated a Beacon Community
26 Program; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Beacon Community Program, federally funded
29 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will include
30 \$220,000,000 in grants to build and strengthen health
31 information technology infrastructure and health information



1 exchange capabilities, including strong privacy and security
2 measures for data exchange; and
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4 WHEREAS, the program's goal is to establish cooperative
5 agreements with communities to build and strengthen their health
6 information technology infrastructure and health information
7 exchange capabilities to achieve measurable improvements in
8 health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the resulting experience will inform efforts
12 throughout the United States to support the meaningful use of
13 electronic health records, which is the primary goal of the
14 federal government's new health information technology
15 initiative; and
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17 WHEREAS, this project can be seen as a first step in the
18 development of a statewide health information exchange and can
19 serve as a learning environment to gain a better understanding
20 of the issues that will be faced when the State is ready to
21 promote health information technology on a larger scale; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Legislature supports locally based efforts and
24 collaboration to secure federal funding that will assist in
25 making Hawaii a model for the implementation of health
26 information technology; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
30 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature supports
31 the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy's
32 application to receive a federally-funded Beacon Community
33 grant; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the College
37 of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, the National
38 Coordinator of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health
39 Information Technology of the United States Department of Health
40




H.C.R. NO. 17

1 and Human Services, the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii
2 at Hilo, and to the President and to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:



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JAN 21 2010

