
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY
STUDY FOR A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN WEST HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, our country's existing teaching hospitals train
2 tens of thousands of new doctors, dentists, and nurses each
3 year; and
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5 WHEREAS, there are over 400 teaching hospitals and health
6 systems in the Association of American Medical Colleges; and
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8 WHEREAS, teaching hospitals exist in more than 40 states
9 across the United States and in Washington, D.C.; and
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11 WHEREAS, teaching hospitals present a valuable opportunity
12 to train and empower future generations of medical professionals
13 while providing high-quality care to their patients and extended
14 communities; and
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16 WHEREAS, teaching hospitals across the nation have also
17 benefitted their communities by offering premium intensive and
18 specialized services, extending a safety net to the medically
19 underserved, and serving as a hub for cutting-edge research and
20 innovation; and
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22 WHEREAS, America's medical schools and teaching hospitals
23 pioneered many of the nation's key medical advances, including
24 the first live polio vaccine, first successful pancreas
25 transplant, first successful bone marrow transplant, first
26 intensive care unit for newborns, first human gene therapy for
27 cystic fibrosis, and first adult human heart transplant in the
28 United States; and



1 WHEREAS, our country faces a growing shortage of
2 physicians, with an anticipated shortage of 46,000 to 90,000
3 physicians in all specialties by 2025; and
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5 WHEREAS, it has been shown both in the State of Hawaii and
6 elsewhere that physicians who are trained in a particular
7 location tend to stay, live, and practice in that location; and
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9 WHEREAS, there is a need for expanded and improved health
10 care services across the entire State; and
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12 WHEREAS, the need for increased, enhanced capacity of
13 mental health resources is evidenced by the Department of
14 Health's call for a new Hawaii state hospital, which is
15 estimated to cost \$160,000,000; and
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17 WHEREAS, according to the 2013 State of Hawaii Community
18 Health Needs Assessment, limited access to health care is the
19 top issue facing Hawaii Island; and
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21 WHEREAS, the accelerated and shifting economic and
22 population growth in West Hawaii has created a regional urban
23 core inconveniently far from Kona Community Hospital, with a
24 population too large to be accommodated by the facility's 94-bed
25 capacity; and
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27 WHEREAS, Kona Community Hospital has become financially
28 unsustainable as of late, recently closing its skilled nursing
29 unit and eliminating 34 positions; and
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31 WHEREAS, a boost in international air traffic and tourism
32 to West Hawaii is expected as the State's Congressional
33 Delegation is working to bring commercial international air
34 service back to Kona International Airport; and
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36 WHEREAS, the creation of a new hospital central to the
37 population core of Hawaii Island and in close proximity to the
38 Kona International Airport would benefit both resident and
39 visiting patients and doctors alike; and
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41 WHEREAS, improving the quality of care in West Hawaii and
42 relocating the hospital nearer to the visitor-dense epicenter of
43 Kailua-Kona on Hawaii Island will enable many patients to



1 receive necessary care without having to be flown to Oahu at
2 great expense, as is currently needed for many cases; and

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4 WHEREAS, there appears to be state land available to devote
5 to a new teaching hospital near the airport in West Hawaii,
6 which is adjacent to the new Palamanui campus; and

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8 WHEREAS, such land can support accommodations both for
9 visiting patients and a burgeoning health workforce; and

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11 WHEREAS, the cost of living and availability of affordable
12 housing on Hawaii Island relative to that of Oahu will make it
13 more likely that well-qualified resident physicians will come,
14 train, and stay on Hawaii Island; and

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16 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is now operating the
17 North Hawaii Community Hospital on Hawaii Island and has
18 indicated interest in becoming involved with the remaining
19 health care facilities on Hawaii Island; and

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21 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is supportive of the
22 concept of a university hospital on Hawaii Island and has
23 requested that a feasibility study be done in regard to this
24 proposed hospital; and

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26 WHEREAS, the State is already exploring the viability of
27 public-private partnerships for our health care facilities
28 through Act 103, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, and the
29 collaboration between the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation's
30 Maui Regional System and Kaiser Permanente; and

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32 WHEREAS, it is envisioned that a substantial portion of the
33 funding for the university hospital will be solicited from the
34 Hawaii Island community; and

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36 WHEREAS, the so-called Gold Coast of leeward Kona and
37 Kohala is home to a number of extremely wealthy individuals who
38 have expressed concerns about the level of health care on Hawaii
39 Island; and

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41 WHEREAS, these wealthy individuals may support a new
42 university hospital in close proximity to their Hawaii Island
43 residences; and



1 WHEREAS, a university hospital could provide valuable
2 resources and opportunities to promptly address the unique
3 health needs of the State, such as the health effects of vog and
4 the current outbreak of dengue on Hawaii Island; and

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6 WHEREAS, a university-affiliated teaching hospital has the
7 potential to cultivate much-needed services for the State,
8 including residency training in primary care and psychiatry as
9 well as veterans' services; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State could benefit from a thorough analysis
12 of the feasibility of a university hospital in Hawaii, including
13 an examination of physician supply and demand, statewide patient
14 needs, accredited educational models, the readiness and
15 capability of various stakeholders, the resources and revenues
16 needed for planning, design, and construction, and realistic
17 timelines for development; and

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19 WHEREAS, sufficient funds should be appropriated for a
20 meaningful study to be conducted for a university hospital in
21 West Hawaii; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the John A. Burns
26 School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii is requested to
27 conduct a feasibility study for a university hospital in West
28 Hawaii; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with regard to planning a
31 university hospital in West Hawaii, the John A. Burns School of
32 Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is requested to
33 conduct the feasibility study in conjunction with leadership
34 from the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hawaii Health
35 Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region, and Hawaii Health
36 Systems Corporation West Hawaii Region; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 University of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the
4 University of Hawaii, Dean of the John A. Burns School of
5 Medicine, and Chief Executive Officers of the Hawaii Health
6 Systems Corporation, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East
7 Hawaii Region, and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation West Hawaii
8 Region.

