
HOUSE 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 our 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 advances, including the first
24 live polio vaccine, the first successful pancreas transplant,
25 the first successful bone marrow transplant, the first intensive
26 care unit for newborns, the first human gene therapy for cystic
27 fibrosis, and the first adult human heart transplant in the
28 United States; and
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30 WHEREAS, our country faces a growing shortage of
31 physicians, with an anticipated shortage of 46,000 to 90,000
32 physicians in all specialties by 2025; and



1 WHEREAS, it has been shown both in the State of Hawaii and
2 elsewhere that physicians who are trained in a particular
3 location tend to stay, live, and practice in that location; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a need for expanded and improved health
6 care services across the entire state; and
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8 WHEREAS, the need for increased, enhanced capacity of
9 mental health resources is evidenced by the Department of
10 Health's call for a new Hawaii state hospital, which is
11 estimated to cost \$160,000,000; and
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13 WHEREAS, according to the 2013 State of Hawaii Community
14 Health Needs Assessment, limited access to health care is the
15 top issue facing Hawaii Island; and
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17 WHEREAS, the accelerated and shifting economic and
18 population growth in West Hawaii has created a regional urban
19 core inconveniently far from Kona Community Hospital, with a
20 population too large to be accommodated by the facility's 94-bed
21 capacity; and
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23 WHEREAS, Kona Community Hospital has become financially
24 unsustainable as of late, recently closing its skilled nursing
25 unit and eliminating 34 positions; and
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27 WHEREAS, a boost in international air traffic and tourism
28 to West Hawaii is expected as the state's Congressional
29 delegation is working to bring commercial international air
30 service back to Kona International Airport; and
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32 WHEREAS, the creation of a new hospital central to the
33 population core of Hawaii Island and in close proximity to the
34 Kona International Airport would benefit both resident and
35 visiting patients and doctors alike; and
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37 WHEREAS, improving the quality of care in West Hawaii and
38 relocating the hospital nearer to the visitor-dense epicenter of
39 Kailua-Kona on Hawaii Island will enable many patients to
40 receive necessary care without having to be flown to Oahu at
41 great expense, as is currently needed for many cases; and



1 WHEREAS, there appears to be state land available to devote
2 to a new teaching hospital near the airport in West Hawaii,
3 which is adjacent to the new Palamanui campus; and
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5 WHEREAS, such land can support accommodations both for
6 visiting patients and a burgeoning health workforce; and
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8 WHEREAS, the cost of living and availability of affordable
9 housing on Hawaii Island relative to that of Oahu will make it
10 more likely that well-qualified resident physicians will come,
11 train, and stay on Hawaii Island; and
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13 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is now operating the
14 North Hawaii Community Hospital on Hawaii Island and has
15 indicated interest in becoming involved with the remaining
16 health care facilities on Hawaii Island; and
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18 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is supportive of the
19 concept of a university hospital on Hawaii Island and has
20 requested that a feasibility study be done in regard to this
21 proposed hospital; and
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23 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is already exploring the
24 viability of public-private partnerships for our health care
25 facilities through Act 103, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, and the
26 collaboration between the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation's
27 Maui Regional System and Kaiser Permanente; and
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29 WHEREAS, it is envisioned that a substantial portion of the
30 funding for the university hospital will be solicited from the
31 Hawaii Island community; and
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33 WHEREAS, the so-called Gold Coast of leeward Kona and
34 Kohala is home to a number of extremely wealthy individuals who
35 have expressed concerns about the level of health care on Hawaii
36 Island; and
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38 WHEREAS, these wealthy individuals may support a new
39 university hospital in close proximity to their Hawaii Island
40 residences; and



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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; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 20 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 21 Session of 2016, that the John A. Burns School of Medicine at
 22 the University of Hawaii is requested to conduct a feasibility
 23 study for a university hospital in West Hawaii; and
 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the University
 27 of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the University of
 28 Hawaii, and Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.
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OFFERED BY: Richard Lopez

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