

---

---

# 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  
4

5           WHEREAS, there are over 400 teaching hospitals and health  
6 systems in the Association of American Medical Colleges; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, teaching hospitals exist in more than 40 states  
9 across the United States and in Washington, D.C.; and  
10

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  
15

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  
21

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  
29

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  
4

5 WHEREAS, there is a need for expanded and improved health  
6 care services across the entire State; and  
7

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  
12

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  
16

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  
22

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  
26

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  
31

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  
36

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  
4

5 WHEREAS, such land can support accommodations both for  
6 visiting patients and a burgeoning health workforce; and  
7

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  
12

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  
17

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  
22

23 WHEREAS, the State is already exploring the viability of  
24 public-private partnerships for our health care facilities  
25 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  
28

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  
32

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  
37

38 WHEREAS, these wealthy individuals may support a new  
39 university hospital in close proximity to their Hawaii Island  
40 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  
5

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  
10

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  
18

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,  
22

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, that the John A. Burns School of Medicine at  
26 the University of Hawaii is requested to conduct a feasibility  
27 study for a university hospital in West Hawaii; and  
28

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



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

