

MAR 11 2016

SENATE 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 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



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
35

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



1 Kailua-Kona on Hawaii Island will enable many patients to
2 receive necessary care without having to be flown to Oahu at
3 great expense, as is currently needed for many cases; and
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5 WHEREAS, there appears to be state land available to devote
6 to a new teaching hospital near the airport in West Hawaii,
7 which is adjacent to the new Palamanui campus; and
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9 WHEREAS, such land can support accommodations both for
10 visiting patients and a burgeoning health workforce; and
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12 WHEREAS, the cost of living and availability of affordable
13 housing on Hawaii Island relative to that of Oahu will make it
14 more likely that well-qualified resident physicians will come,
15 train, and stay on Hawaii Island; and
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17 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is now operating the
18 North Hawaii Community Hospital on Hawaii Island and has
19 indicated interest in becoming involved with the remaining
20 health care facilities on Hawaii Island; and
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22 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is supportive of the
23 concept of a university hospital on Hawaii Island and has
24 requested that a feasibility study be done in regard to this
25 proposed hospital; and
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27 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is already exploring the
28 viability of public-private partnerships for our health care
29 facilities through Act 103, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, and the
30 collaboration between the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation's
31 Maui Regional System and Kaiser Permanente; and
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33 WHEREAS, it is envisioned that a substantial portion of the
34 funding for the university hospital will be solicited from the
35 Hawaii Island community; and
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37 WHEREAS, the so-called Gold Coast of leeward Kona and
38 Kohala is home to a number of extremely wealthy individuals who
39 have expressed concerns about the level of health care on Hawaii
40 Island; and



