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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A TEACHING HOSPITAL IN WEST HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that Hawaii faces an  
2 increasing shortage of physicians to provide direct care to  
3 patients; and

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5           WHEREAS, the 2018 Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment, an  
6 annual report submitted to the Legislature by the University of  
7 Hawaii, estimates that the unmet need for physicians statewide,  
8 when adjusted for island geography and unmet specialty-specific  
9 needs by county, is seven hundred ninety-seven positions, an  
10 increase from the previous year's estimate; and

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12           WHEREAS, the largest shortage on all islands is in primary  
13 care and the largest subspecialty shortages statewide are in  
14 infectious disease, pathology, colorectal surgery, neurosurgery,  
15 and pulmonology; and

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17           WHEREAS, in the County of Hawaii, there is a one hundred  
18 percent shortage of physicians specializing in colorectal  
19 surgery, infectious diseases, and neonatal-perinatal  
20 subspecialties; and

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22           WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii has a large, medically  
23 underserved rural community and the county as a whole has one of  
24 the fastest growing populations in the State; and

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26           WHEREAS, a teaching hospital would provide a broader, more  
27 complete network of care for the county's residential and  
28 visitor populations; and



1 WHEREAS, teaching hospitals facilitate valuable care,  
2 produce better outcomes for patients, and provide a rich  
3 training ground for future medical professionals across  
4 specialties; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, an important aspect of the proposed teaching  
7 hospital would be residency training for both physicians and  
8 nurse practitioners, the latter of whom who have not had access  
9 to residency programs in the past despite being an important and  
10 growing part of our primary care health work force; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, it has been shown both in the State of Hawaii and  
13 elsewhere that physicians trained at a particular location tend  
14 to stay, live, and practice in that location, and a teaching  
15 hospital on Hawaii island may help to attract and retain a high-  
16 quality, diverse physician workforce; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, teaching hospitals across the nation have  
19 benefitted their communities by offering premium intensive and  
20 specialized services, extending a safety net to the medically  
21 underserved, and serving as a hub for cutting-edge research and  
22 innovation; and

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24 WHEREAS, improving the quality of care in West Hawaii will  
25 enable many patients to receive necessary care without the  
26 expense and inconvenience of flying to Oahu; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, patients statewide facing serious and routine  
29 illnesses will no longer be forced to leave the State to gain  
30 access to the best available, appropriate, and innovative care;  
31 and

32  
33 WHEREAS, locating a teaching hospital near the population-  
34 dense epicenter of Kailua-Kona and the Ellison Onizuka Kona  
35 International Airport will provide convenient access for  
36 patients statewide to access care and for physicians to provide  
37 care and instruction at the hospital; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, Hawaii Community College--Palamanui in West Hawaii  
40 has many existing and potential health-related training programs  
41 that would benefit from a teaching hospital within the  
42 University of Hawaii System located nearby; and



1 WHEREAS, the Legislature previously recognized the  
2 potential benefits of establishing a teaching hospital on Hawaii  
3 island by appropriating \$500,000 for a feasibility study for a  
4 teaching hospital in Kona, but the appropriated funds lapsed  
5 prior to initiation of the study; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns  
8 School of Medicine and the Office of the Mayor, County of Hawaii  
9 both recognize the potential benefits of establishing a teaching  
10 hospital for the State of Hawaii and support a feasibility study  
11 for a teaching hospital in Kona; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Community Design Center  
14 works collaboratively with communities, the University of  
15 Hawaii, and government agencies to produce proof of concept  
16 designs; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Community Design Center  
19 endeavors to consider in its concept designs the unique  
20 geographic position of Hawaii and the State's particular  
21 cultural, social, economic, ecological, and political  
22 challenges; now, therefore,  
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
26 2019, the Senate concurring, that the John A. Burns School of  
27 Medicine at the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the  
28 University of Hawaii Community Design Center, is requested to  
29 conduct a feasibility study regarding the creation of a teaching  
30 hospital in West Hawaii in the County of Hawaii; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to  
33 analyze and recommend:  
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- 35 (1) The scope of the teaching hospital size, services  
36 offered, and staffing needed;  
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- 38 (2) Estimated costs for all stages of planning, design,  
39 construction, and maintenance;  
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- 41 (3) Various financing options available, including  
42 resources from all levels of government, opportunities





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