
SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
CORPORATION, TO STUDY THE IMPACT AND FEASIBILITY OF
CREATING A TEACHING HOSPITAL IN WEST HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a growing shortage of physicians to
2 provide direct care to patients; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Physician Workforce Project reported in
5 October 2018 that Hawaii had a shortage of five hundred thirteen
6 full-time equivalent positions; and

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8 WHEREAS, when adjusted for island geography and unmet
9 specialty-specific needs by county, the estimated unmet need for
10 physicians was seven hundred ninety-seven positions, an increase
11 from seven hundred sixty-nine positions in the previous year;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii has a large and medically
15 underserved rural community; and

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17 WHEREAS, the residential population of Hawaii island is one
18 of the fastest growing populations in the State; and

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20 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii welcomes a large number of
21 domestic and international visitors throughout the year; and

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23 WHEREAS, a teaching hospital on Hawaii island may help to
24 attract and retain a high-quality, diverse physician workforce
25 to the State; and

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27 WHEREAS, additionally, a teaching hospital will provide a
28 broader and more complete network of care for individuals on
29 Hawaii island; and

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31 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Legislature recognized the potential
32 benefits of a teaching hospital on Hawaii island by



1 appropriating \$500,000 for a feasibility study for a teaching
2 hospital in Kona; and
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4 WHEREAS, however, the appropriated funds lapsed prior to
5 the initiation of the study; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
8 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
9 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, in
10 collaboration with the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, is
11 encouraged to study the impact and feasibility of creating a
12 teaching hospital in west Hawaii; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii John
15 A. Burns School of Medicine, in collaboration with the Hawaii
16 Health Systems Corporation, is requested to submit a report of
17 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
19 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the University
23 of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the University of
24 Hawaii, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems
25 Corporation, and Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
26 School of Medicine.
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