
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING ONGOING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO
PRODUCE A RURAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY HUB PLAN TO ADDRESS
THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE AND IMPROVE HEALTH CARE IN RURAL
AREAS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is experiencing a shortage of active
2 physicians; currently, over 800 doctors are needed to fill the
3 void, and the shortage is worse in rural areas like North
4 Kohala; and

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6 WHEREAS, recently, the University of Hawaii planned to
7 expand the John A. Burns School of Medicine to Maui in an effort
8 to train and keep more physicians in Hawaii, especially in rural
9 areas; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine,
12 Dr. Jerris Hedges, stated in a recent Star-Advertiser article,
13 "Our belief is that many [doctors] will choose to practice where
14 they are taught."; and

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16 WHEREAS, the proposed Maui expansion would enroll up to six
17 students a year, or over twenty-four over the four years of
18 medical school, while also serving as a base to expand residency
19 programs for post-graduate specialty training, and this type of
20 program is crucial to building the local physician workforce;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, another rural area in need of physicians is North
24 Kohala on the island of Hawaii; and

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26 WHEREAS, currently, the Hamakua-Kohala Health Center has
27 plans for a new clinic, which provides the perfect opportunity
28 to develop a Rural Health Care Delivery Hub (Hub) at the clinic;
29 and



1 WHEREAS, the Hub is an anticipated joint venture between
 2 the Hamakua-Kohala Health Center, The Queen's Health Systems,
 3 the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the State, and the local
 4 community, and facilities of the Hub may include a clinic,
 5 dormitory, classrooms, and research infrastructure; and
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7 WHEREAS, at the Hub, the health care community could
 8 develop culturally sensitive rural health care tools and
 9 programs that will be validated with research; and
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11 WHEREAS, education and training in rural health care must
 12 include education on existing state and federal programs, tools,
 13 and funds that support rural communities, and this cannot be
 14 accomplished without a collaborative effort that is focused on
 15 developing a model rural health care delivery hub to train
 16 physicians and provide medical services to rural areas in
 17 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 20 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 21 2020, that this body recognizes and supports the ongoing
 22 collaboration between the Hamakua-Kohala Health Center, John A.
 23 Burns School of Medicine, The Queen's Health Systems, and others
 24 to produce a rural health care delivery hub plan to address the
 25 physician shortage and improve health care in rural areas; and
 26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Chief
 29 Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Chief
 30 Executive Officer of The Queen's Health Systems, Chief Executive
 31 Officer of Hamakua-Kohala Health, and Dean of the University of
 32 Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine.
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Richard L... OFFERED BY: John M. ...
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