

MAR - 6 2020

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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

5  
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

10  
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

15  
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

22  
23           WHEREAS, another rural area in need of physicians is North  
24 Kohala on the island of Hawaii; and

25  
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



# S.C.R. NO. 231

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  
 6

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  
 10

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,  
 18

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 20 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of  
 21 Representatives concurring, that this body recognizes and  
 22 supports the ongoing collaboration between the Hamakua-Kohala  
 23 Health Center, John A. Burns School of Medicine, The Queen's  
 24 Health Systems, and others to produce a rural health care  
 25 delivery hub plan to address the physician shortage and improve  
 26 health care in rural areas; and  
 27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
 30 Chief Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii,  
 31 Chief Executive Officer of The Queen's Health Systems, Chief  
 32 Executive Officer of Hamakua-Kohala Health, and Dean of the  
 33 University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine.  
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 36

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