
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO INVESTIGATE AND ADDRESS
THE FEASIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AND
IMPLEMENTING A NURSING PROGRAM AT HONOLULU COMMUNITY
COLLEGE.

1 WHEREAS, nursing demands in the State have increased
2 significantly and are further exacerbated by a dire statewide
3 nursing shortage; and

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5 WHEREAS, nursing vacancies have a negative effect on
6 patient access, quality of care, and nurses' morale; and

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8 WHEREAS, Kalihi, which encompasses the surrounding
9 neighborhoods of Iwilei, Palama, and Liliha, has a large number
10 of Oahu's most vulnerable populations, including individuals
11 with chronic health conditions and individuals experiencing
12 homelessness; and

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14 WHEREAS, vulnerable populations within Kalihi and the
15 surrounding area are more prone to developing health problems,
16 such as diseases of the extremities and skin disorders, and face
17 an increased risk of physical assault or sexual violence; and

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19 WHEREAS, there are insufficient qualified health care
20 professionals, including nurses, in Kalihi to address and
21 fulfill physical and mental health care needs for individuals
22 with chronic health conditions or experiencing homelessness; and

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24 WHEREAS, numerous licensed assisted living homes, including
25 Level 1 adult residential care homes, community care foster
26 family homes, and long-term care facilities, operate in Kalihi
27 and the surrounding neighborhoods; and

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1 WHEREAS, currently, Kapiolani Community College offers the
2 only community college-level nursing program within urban
3 Honolulu; and
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5 WHEREAS, a 2017 study published in the Cureus Journal of
6 Medical Science found that medicine rotations in inner-city
7 areas did not impact attitudes toward individuals with chronic
8 health conditions or experiencing homelessness; and
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10 WHEREAS, providing students from Kalihi and the surrounding
11 neighborhoods with opportunities to participate in rotations
12 with health care providers in the area may address vacancies
13 given the ongoing nursing shortage, offer students educational
14 and professional opportunities closer to home, and allow
15 students to work closely with community partners experiencing
16 critical needs to support vulnerable populations; and
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18 WHEREAS, the ability to empathize and understand the needs
19 of vulnerable individuals undergoing treatment creates
20 opportunities to understand the complexity of providing medical
21 care, improves cross-cultural communication skills, and provides
22 a stronger network of health care providers with a unique
23 understanding of the community; and
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25 WHEREAS, developing a nursing program within Honolulu
26 Community College may also motivate students to pursue education
27 beyond a community college-level education, which may lead to an
28 increase of highly skilled nurses in the State; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
33 Hawaii is requested to examine the feasibility and accessibility
34 of developing and implementing a nursing program at Honolulu
35 Community College; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
38 requested to submit a report of its findings and
39 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
40 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
41 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
3 University of Hawaii System, Vice President for Community
4 Colleges of the University of Hawaii, Chancellor of Honolulu
5 Community College, and Chairperson of the Kalihi-Palama
6 Neighborhood Board.
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