

MAR 11 2022

## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OFFICE, ALSO KNOWN AS A FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER OFFICE, IN KA'Ū IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's Child and Adolescent  
2 Mental Health Division manages Community Mental Health Centers,  
3 also known as Family Guidance Centers, that provide Hawai'i's  
4 children and youth who have serious emotional or behavioral  
5 challenges access to essential intensive mental health services;  
6 and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the school district for the island of Hawai'i  
9 originally had one Family Guidance Center; however, due to the  
10 disproportionately high number of children and youth enrolled in  
11 its programs, the Center's jurisdiction was divided into two  
12 centers: the East Hawai'i Family Guidance Center and West  
13 Hawai'i Family Guidance Center; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the East Hawai'i Family Guidance Center operates  
16 one office located in Hilo and the West Hawai'i Family Guidance  
17 Center operates two offices--one each in Waimea and Kona; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, the West Hawai'i Family Guidance Center's Kona  
20 office has been closed for some time as the lease for a new  
21 premises is being finalized, and as a result, the Waimea office  
22 currently serves the entire western region of the island of  
23 Hawai'i; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, due to the current closure of the Kona office,  
26 children and youth who reside in the southern region of the  
27 island of Hawai'i are required to travel as far as one hundred  
28 miles to visit the Waimea office or the Hilo office; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, some children and youth who reside in the southern  
31 region of the island of Hawai'i will still be required to travel



1 as far as seventy miles to reach the Kona office even after it  
2 reopens; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, establishment of a Family Guidance Center office  
5 in the southern region of the island of Hawai'i is imperative to  
6 protect the health and safety of the children and youth who  
7 reside in the region and need swift access to intensive mental  
8 health services; now, therefore,

9  
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
12 that the Department of Health's Child and Adolescent Mental  
13 Health Division is urged to conduct a feasibility study on the  
14 establishment of a Community Mental Health Center Office, also  
15 known as a Family Guidance Center office, in Ka'u in the county  
16 of Hawai'i in addition to the existing Family Guidance Center  
17 offices located in Waimea, Kona, and Hilo, to serve the needs of  
18 the children and youth who reside in the southern region of the  
19 county; and

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Child and Adolescent Mental  
22 Health Division is requested to submit a report of its findings  
23 from the feasibility study and recommendations, including any  
24 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
25 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
29 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of  
30 Education.

31  
32  
33 OFFERED BY: 

