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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO PARTNER WITH THE KA'Ū RURAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE THE DEMAND FOR AND ACCESS TO URGENT CARE AND OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE KA'Ū DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, individuals with pre-existing mental health  
2 conditions may be particularly vulnerable in an emergency, and  
3 in particular, physical isolation and loneliness during the  
4 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic may present specific health  
5 risks for households with adolescents and older adults; and  
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7 WHEREAS, rural health clinics address inadequate supplies  
8 of physicians serving Medicaid beneficiaries in rural areas and  
9 increase the availability of medically necessary, face-to-face  
10 primary health services; and  
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12 WHEREAS, rural health clinics also provide access to  
13 qualified preventative health services furnished by licensed  
14 health practitioners, including physicians, nurse practitioners,  
15 physical assistants, certified nurse-midwives, clinical  
16 psychologists, and social workers; and  
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18 WHEREAS, rural health clinics serve an essential role in  
19 underserved communities such as the Ka'ū district in the County  
20 of Hawaii, enabling greater appointment availability for  
21 Medicaid patients; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association, Inc.  
24 is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve access  
25 to quality health care in rural communities in the Ka'ū district  
26 in the County of Hawaii; now, therefore,  
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
30 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested to  
31 partner with the Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association, Inc.,



1 to conduct a needs assessment to determine the demand for and  
2 access to urgent care and outpatient behavioral health services  
3 in the Ka'ū district; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems  
6 Corporation is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
7 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
8 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
9 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Chair of  
13 the Board of Directors of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and  
14 Executive Director of Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association,  
15 Inc.

