
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH A
VETERINARY MEDICINE EXPANSION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE
FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
PROGRAM AT WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

1 WHEREAS, the State faces a critical shortage of
2 veterinarians, especially in rural areas and for large animal
3 and agricultural veterinary services; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the State's lack of a Doctor of Veterinary
6 Medicine program forces aspiring veterinarians to seek education
7 on the United States mainland or internationally, which can
8 increase financial burdens and reduce the likelihood that a
9 newly licensed veterinarian will return to Hawaii to practice;
10 and
11

12 WHEREAS, Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology
13 program has a strong foundation in veterinary education,
14 providing students with hands-on experience and producing
15 skilled veterinary technicians; and
16

17 WHEREAS, expanding Windward Community College's existing
18 Veterinary Technology program to include a Doctor of Veterinary
19 Medicine pathway would help address the State's veterinary
20 workforce shortages and support local agriculture, animal
21 welfare, and biosecurity; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Doctor of Veterinary
24 Medicine program in Hawaii could include collaborations between
25 the University of Hawaii System, private veterinary practices,
26 and national accredited bodies to ensure academic excellence and
27 program sustainability; and
28



1 WHEREAS, the expansion of Windward Community College's
2 degree programs would require a feasibility study and strategic
3 planning to assess accreditation standards and the faculty,
4 funding, and partnerships needed to support the proposed
5 doctoral program; now, therefore,

6
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii
10 System is requested to establish a Veterinary Medicine Expansion
11 Working Group to explore the feasibility of developing a Doctor
12 of Veterinary Medicine program at Windward Community College;
13 and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
16 to include:

- 17
18 (1) A representative of Windward Community College's
19 Veterinary Technology program;
20
21 (2) A representative of the University of Hawaii at Hilo's
22 Veterinarian Education Program;
23
24 (3) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
25 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, or the
26 Dean's designee;
27
28 (4) The Chair of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chair's
29 designee;
30
31 (5) Representatives from private veterinary practice,
32 including large animal and small animal practitioners,
33 invited by the President of the University of Hawaii;
34
35 (6) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
36 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
37
38 (7) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President
39 of the Senate; and
40
41 (8) Any other stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the
42 Working Group; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Working Group is requested to
3 conduct a feasibility study addressing:
4

- 5 (1) Potential partnerships with veterinary schools on the
6 United States mainland to facilitate clinical
7 rotations;
8
9 (2) The alignment of the State's education and workforce
10 pipelines to feed into the Doctor of Veterinary
11 Medicine program;
12
13 (3) The infrastructure and facilities needed to support a
14 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;
15
16 (4) The State's ability to meet accreditation requirements
17 of the American Veterinary Medical Association;
18
19 (5) The faculty and curriculum needed to support the
20 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and to meet
21 accreditation requirements; and
22
23 (6) The availability of funding, including public-private
24 partnerships and federal grants; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
27 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
28 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
29 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
30 of 2026; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the
34 University of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the
35 University of Hawaii, Chair of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of
36 the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and
37 Human Resilience, Chancellor of Windward Community College,
38 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and members of
39 Windward Community College Veterinary Studies Advisory
40 Committee.

