
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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29 WHEREAS, the expansion of Windward Community College's
30 degree programs would require a feasibility study and strategic
31 planning to assess accreditation standards and the faculty,



1 funding, and partnerships needed to support the proposed
2 doctoral program; now, therefore,

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

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
12 to include:

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14 (1) A representative of Windward Community College's
15 Veterinary Technology program;
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17 (2) A representative of the University of Hawaii at Hilo's
18 Veterinarian Education Program;
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20 (3) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
21 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, or the
22 Dean's designee;
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24 (4) The Chair of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chair's
25 designee;
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27 (5) Representatives from private veterinary practice,
28 including large animal and small animal practitioners,
29 invited by the President of the University of Hawaii;
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31 (6) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
32 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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34 (7) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President
35 of the Senate; and
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37 (8) Any other stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the
38 Working Group; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Working Group is requested to
41 conduct a feasibility study addressing:
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- (1) Potential partnerships with veterinary schools on the United States mainland to facilitate clinical rotations;
- (2) The alignment of the State's education and workforce pipelines to feed into the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;
- (3) The infrastructure and facilities needed to support a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;
- (4) The State's ability to meet accreditation requirements of the American Veterinary Medical Association;
- (5) The faculty and curriculum needed to support the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and to meet accreditation requirements; and
- (6) The availability of funding, including public-private partnerships and federal grants; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii, Chair of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, Chancellor of Windward Community College, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and members of Windward Community College Veterinary Studies Advisory Committee.

