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HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI CAMPUS.

WHEREAS, the demand for healthcare services in the County of Maui is increasing due to a growing and aging population; and

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need for highly qualified nursing professionals to meet the healthcare needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Maui College currently offers a Practical Nurse Certificate of Achievement and an Associate in Science in Nursing degree, which prepare students for entry-level nursing positions; and

WHEREAS, students who complete the Associate in Science in Nursing Program have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through the University of Hawaii at Manoa, commonly known as the "Hawaii Statewide Nursing Consortium"; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, less than twenty percent of the Associate in Science in Nursing graduates have enrolled and completed the Hawaii Statewide Nursing Consortium, due to a majority of those individuals being in the Maui nursing workforce; and

WHEREAS, an estimated twenty percent of the Maui Associate in Science in Nursing Program graduates have enrolled in an out-of-state online Bachelor of Science in Nursing program; and

WHEREAS, establishing a dedicated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of Hawaii Maui College will provide Maui residents with an uninterrupted pathway for more advanced nursing knowledge along with greater advancement opportunities; and

WHEREAS, while Oahu nursing schools have been unable to expand enrollment due to a lack of available clinical placements, Maui healthcare facilities have ample available clinical placements for Maui nursing students to gain real-world experience that is necessary to earn their degrees; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that the University of Hawaii President and Board of Regents are urged to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of Hawaii Maui College; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms the importance of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of Hawaii Maui College and recognizes that additional nurse graduates would help to address the State's nurse shortage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents is requested to allocate appropriate resources and support to develop and implement the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, including faculty recruitment, curriculum development, and necessary facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, the President of the University of Hawaii System, and the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii Maui College.

OFFERED BY: MAR 0 6 2025