
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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5 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH A
6 VETERINARY MEDICINE EXPANSION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE
7 FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
8 PROGRAM AT WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
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12 WHEREAS, the State faces a critical shortage of
13 veterinarians, especially in rural areas and for large animal
14 and agricultural veterinary services; and
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16 WHEREAS, the State's lack of a Doctor of Veterinary
17 Medicine program forces aspiring veterinarians to seek education
18 on the United States mainland or internationally, which can
19 increase financial burdens and reduce the likelihood that a
20 newly licensed veterinarian will return to Hawaii to practice;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology
24 program has a strong foundation in veterinary education,
25 providing students with hands-on experience and producing
26 skilled veterinary technicians; and
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28 WHEREAS, expanding Windward Community College's existing
29 Veterinary Technology program to include a Doctor of Veterinary
30 Medicine pathway would help address the State's veterinary
31 workforce shortages and support local agriculture, animal
32 welfare, and biosecurity; and
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34 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Doctor of Veterinary
35 Medicine program in Hawaii could include collaborations between
36 the University of Hawaii System, private veterinary practices,
37 and national accredited bodies to ensure academic excellence and
38 program sustainability; and
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1 WHEREAS, community colleges are not authorized to offer
 2 doctoral programs, obtaining accreditation for colleges can be a
 3 lengthy process. Colleges that would like to administer doctoral
 4 programs must go through an accreditation process through the
 5 Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and
 6 University Commission, or another regional accreditor.

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 8 WHEREAS, the expansion of Windward Community College's
 9 degree programs would require a feasibility study and strategic
 10 planning to assess accreditation standards and the faculty,
 11 funding, and partnerships needed to support the proposed
 12 doctoral program; now, therefore,

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 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 15 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 16 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii
 17 System is requested to establish a Veterinary Medicine Expansion
 18 Working Group to explore the feasibility of developing a Doctor
 19 of Veterinary Medicine program at Windward Community College;
 20 and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
 23 to include:

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 25 (1) A representative of Windward Community College's
 26 Veterinary Technology program;
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 28 (2) A representative of the University of Hawaii at Hilo's
 29 Veterinarian Education Program;
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 31 (3) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
 32 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, or the
 33 Dean's designee;
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 35 (4) The Chair of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chair's
 36 designee;
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 38 (5) Representatives from private veterinary practice,
 39 including large animal and small animal practitioners,
 40 invited by the President of the University of Hawaii;
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- 1 (6) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
- 2 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 4 (7) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President
- 5 of the Senate; and
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- 7 (8) One member of the University of Hawaii System to act
- 8 as a representative for the Working Group; and
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- 10 (9) Any other stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the
- 11 Working Group; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Working Group is requested to
14 conduct a feasibility study addressing:

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- 16 (1) Potential partnerships with veterinary schools on the
- 17 United States mainland to facilitate clinical
- 18 rotations;
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- 20 (2) The alignment of the State's education and workforce
- 21 pipelines to feed into the Doctor of Veterinary
- 22 Medicine program;
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- 24 (3) The infrastructure and facilities needed to support a
- 25 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;
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- 27 (4) The State's ability to meet accreditation requirements
- 28 of the American Veterinary Medical Association;
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- 30 (5) The faculty and curriculum needed to support the
- 31 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and to meet
- 32 accreditation requirements; and
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- 34 (6) The availability of funding, including public-private
- 35 partnerships and federal grants; and
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- 37 (7) Assess the demand for the DVM program and their
- 38 potential integration within the University of Hawaii
- 39 System at the most optimal campus.
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
42 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,



1 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
2 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
3 of 2026; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the
7 University of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the
8 University of Hawaii, Chair of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of
9 the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and
10 Human Resilience, Chancellor of Windward Community College,
11 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and members of
12 Windward Community College Veterinary Studies Advisory
13 Committee.
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