
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE
STUDENTS TO EXAMINE AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS RURAL
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the relative shortage of primary care physicians
2 in rural areas of Hawaii is one of our state's most persistent
3 health care trends; and
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5 WHEREAS, residents of rural areas, many times, are older,
6 sicker, poorer, and less likely to be insured; and
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8 WHEREAS, it is not just a matter of statistical analysis to
9 attract and retain physicians for service in rural areas, it
10 encompasses social, cultural, and economic details to make a
11 good match; and
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13 WHEREAS, young people from a rural area who enter medical
14 school may be predisposed to return home to practice when given
15 proper encouragement and support to do so; and
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17 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii's (UH) John A. Burns
18 School of Medicine's (JABSOM) mission is to teach and train high
19 quality physicians, biomedical students, and allied health
20 professionals to practice in Hawaii and the rest of the Pacific,
21 and to conduct both clinical and basic research in areas of
22 specific interest to our community and region; and
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24 WHEREAS, JABSOM has the most culturally and ethnically
25 diverse student body in the country mirroring the rich diversity
26 of the state's population; and
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28 WHEREAS, a study published by the American Journal of
29 Public Health 2004 entitled "Retention of Primary Care
30 Physicians in Rural Health Professional Shortage Areas" found
31 that physicians working in rural areas in a state where the



1 physician grew up or trained correlated with longer retention in
2 those areas; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that JABSOM is requested
7 to conduct a survey of current and prospective students to
8 examine and develop a plan to address rural health professional
9 shortage areas in the State; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of JABSOM, UH
13 Board of Regents, Director of Health, and President and Chief
14 Executive Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

