

MAR 06 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO BEGIN REBUILDING THE SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC HEALTH BY 2012.

1 WHEREAS, over three thousand five hundred graduates of the
2 University of Hawaii School of Public Health programs in
3 epidemiology, environmental health, nutrition, maternal and
4 child health, gerontology, international health, health
5 administration, and community health development and education
6 now play vital roles in protecting the health of Hawaii's
7 population and the health of those in the Asia, Pacific, and
8 United States regions; and

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10 WHEREAS, over the decades, the health workforce of Hawaii
11 and the Asia-Pacific region has consisted largely of the
12 graduates of former University of Hawaii School of Public
13 Health, which once educated hundreds of public health
14 professionals a year, as the second largest graduate program in
15 the University of Hawaii system; and

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17 WHEREAS, in 1999, the University of Hawaii School of Public
18 Health lost its accreditation; and

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20 WHEREAS, in 2000, the University of Hawaii School of Public
21 Health was incorporated into the John A. Burns School of
22 Medicine as the Office of Public Health Studies; and

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24 WHEREAS, upon closure of the School of Public Health, the
25 University of Hawaii administration proposed, and the Board of
26 Regents approved, a plan to rebuild it within five years; and

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28 WHEREAS, the medical school and the Department of Health
29 have made significant strides towards the rebuilding of public
30 health education, research, and training since the closure of
31 the School of Public Health, most significantly in gaining



1 recent seven-year full accreditation from the Council on
2 Education in Public Health for a program in public health; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department recently completed a school of
5 public health business plan, as well as increased the public
6 health faculty size from fourteen to twenty; and

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8 WHEREAS, a new, independent school of public health could
9 become a reality within three to five years, pending the
10 availability of necessary funding resources; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is at a crossroads for emerging public
13 health issues, as there is both significant public health needs
14 as well as interest by prospective students to sustain a new
15 school; and

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17 WHEREAS, a new school of public health must provide
18 distance training to prospective students living in all
19 geographic areas of Hawaii; and

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21 WHEREAS, studies have shown that a substantial percentage
22 of the public health workforce, especially those in leadership
23 and mid-level management positions, has retired or is on the
24 verge of exiting the workforce to retire; and

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26 WHEREAS, currently, Hawaii is facing a health workforce
27 crisis that will be even more critical if public health training
28 and education is not reinstated; and

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30 WHEREAS, the potential for obtaining research funds has
31 grown tremendously over the last few years, and a new school of
32 public health would provide more flexibility to respond to
33 Hawaii's public health needs including issues relating to a
34 pandemic influenza, substance use, disparities in health status,
35 environmental health problems, diabetes, elder health, injury
36 prevention, childhood obesity, bioterrorism, SARS, and other
37 local and global health challenges; and

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39 WHEREAS, without a fully accredited school of public
40 health, Hawaii is ineligible to receive maximum federal research
41 money; and

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43 WHEREAS, other states and universities are considering
44 increasing public health training and research in Hawaii and the



1 Asia-Pacific region because of the absence of a Hawaii school of
2 public health; and
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4 WHEREAS, because there is no public health school in the
5 State, Hawaii is losing revenue, recognition, and its essential
6 role of educational public health leadership in the Asia-Pacific
7 region; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
12 Hawaii is urged to begin the rebuilding of a school of public
13 health by 2012; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
16 urged to work with the Department of Health, the Centers for
17 Disease Control and Prevention, and other key public health
18 partners to collaborate on the rebuilding of the University of
19 Hawaii School of Public Health, with new opportunities for
20 research, education and community service that broaden the
21 public health infrastructure for Hawaii, the Pacific and Asia;
22 and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and
26 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Dean of the
27 John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Director of the Office of
28 Public Health Studies, the Director of Health, Hawaii's
29 congressional delegation, the Director of the Public Health
30 Practice Program Office of the Centers for Disease Control and
31 Prevention, and the Presidents of the University of Hawaii
32 Public Health Alumni Association and the Hawaii Public Health
33 Association.
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