
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE INTERIM TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND
DEVELOP A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRAINING AND RECRUITING PLAN
FOR RURAL AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, a severe shortage of primary health care providers
2 currently exists, particularly in the rural and medically
3 underserved areas of the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, in order to address Hawaii's health care crisis
6 and ensure that people living in the rural and medically
7 underserved areas receive quality health care services, a plan
8 needs to be developed and implemented to recruit qualified
9 primary health care providers; and
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11 WHEREAS, family physicians are well-suited to rural health
12 care due to the broad scope of their practice, which encompasses
13 inpatient, outpatient, and nursing home settings, and addresses
14 acute, chronic, and preventive health across the life cycle; and
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16 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of
17 Medicine currently offers a three-year residency program in
18 family medicine; and
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20 WHEREAS, the mission of the family medicine residency
21 program is to meet the needs of rural and medically underserved
22 areas and populations in Hawaii in a culturally sensitive and
23 medically appropriate manner; and
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25 WHEREAS, family medicine program residents provide not only
26 health care but also education and outreach at schools and
27 community events; and
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29 WHEREAS, presently, family medicine program residents spend
30 two months in a federally-funded rural health care training
31 demonstration project, initiated in Hilo in 2006, in which
32 residents learn how to provide health care to medically

1 underserved patients in rural areas as they rotate among private
2 physician offices, emergency departments, and the community,
3 providing outreach and education; and
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5 WHEREAS, on July 10, 2007, Act 277 (H.B. No. 1477 H.D. 2,
6 S.D. 2, C.D. 1) was enacted into law without the Governor's
7 signature; and
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9 WHEREAS, Act 277 (2007), appropriated funds to:
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- 11 (1) Develop a statewide rural primary health care training
12 program; and
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14 (2) Support the family medicine residency program of the
15 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of
16 Medicine's Department of Family Medicine and Community
17 Health; and
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19 WHEREAS, even though Act 277 (2007) was enacted into law,
20 the Governor has refused to release the funds to implement the
21 program; and
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23 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii, Department of Family
24 Medicine and Community Health, has established the Hilo Rural
25 Residency Program, an initial effort to align primary care
26 workforce development with the needs of the State of Hawaii; and
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28 WHEREAS, the goal of the Hilo Rural Residency Program is to
29 develop and staff a Family Medicine Center that will become an
30 accredited Family Medicine Residency with eighteen residents
31 (six per year); and
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33 WHEREAS, the Family Medicine Center will serve as an
34 interdisciplinary clinical training site for medical students,
35 residents, nurse practitioner students, nursing students,
36 pharmacy students and others; and
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38 WHEREAS, a legislative interim task force should be
39 convened in order to effectively address Hawaii's health care
40 crisis in the rural and medically underserved areas of the
41 State; and
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43 WHEREAS, in identifying and developing a primary health
44 care training and recruiting plan for rural and medically

1 underserved areas of the State, the task force should use Act
2 277 (2007) and the Hilo Rural Residency Program as guidelines in
3 developing a model for the State; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Senate Committee
8 on Health and the House Committee on Health convene a
9 legislative interim task force to identify and develop a Hawaii
10 island model for a primary health care training and recruiting
11 plan for rural and medically underserved areas of the State; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan shall address both
14 short-term and long-term goals to ensure that rural and
15 medically underserved areas of the State have access to
16 qualified health care providers; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate President and the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives are requested to appoint
20 the chair of the Senate Committee on Health and the chair of the
21 House Committee on Health, who shall co-chair the task force,
22 and at a minimum, each of the Senators and Representatives from
23 the island of Hawaii; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following officials are
26 requested to serve as ex-officio members of the task force: the
27 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association
28 or the Chief Executive Officer's designee; the Site Director of
29 the Hilo Rural Residency Program; the Director of the Bay
30 Clinic, Inc.; the Director of Health or the Director's designee;
31 and the Director of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
32 School of Medicine or the Director's designee; a representative
33 of the Hawaii Medical Association; a representative of Hawaii
34 Medical Services Association; a representative of the Hawaii
35 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; a representative
36 of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and
37 a representative of the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
40 submit a report to the Legislature, including any proposed
41 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
42 the Regular Session of 2010; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED certified copies of this Concurrent
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Senate
4 Committee on Health, the Chair of the House Committee on Health,
5 the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care
6 Association, the Site Director of the Hilo Rural Residency
7 Program, the Director of the Bay Clinic, Inc., the Director of
8 Health, the Director of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
9 School of Medicine, the Hawaii Medical Association, Hawaii
10 Medical Services Association, the Hawaii Chapter of the American
11 Academy of Pediatrics, The American College of Obstetricians and
12 Gynecologists, and the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians.