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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY  
STUDY FOR A UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN WEST HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, our country's existing teaching hospitals train  
2 tens of thousands of new doctors, dentists, and nurses each  
3 year; and  
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5           WHEREAS, there are over 400 teaching hospitals and health  
6 systems in the Association of American Medical Colleges; and  
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8           WHEREAS, teaching hospitals exist in more than 40 states  
9 across the United States and in Washington, D.C.; and  
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11           WHEREAS, teaching hospitals present a valuable opportunity  
12 to train and empower future generations of medical professionals  
13 while providing high-quality care to our patients and extended  
14 communities; and  
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16           WHEREAS, teaching hospitals across the nation have also  
17 benefitted their communities by offering premium intensive and  
18 specialized services, extending a safety net to the medically  
19 underserved, and serving as a hub for cutting-edge research and  
20 innovation; and  
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22           WHEREAS, America's medical schools and teaching hospitals  
23 pioneered many of the nation's key advances, including the first  
24 live polio vaccine, the first successful pancreas transplant,  
25 the first successful bone marrow transplant, the first intensive  
26 care unit for newborns, the first human gene therapy for cystic  
27 fibrosis, and the first adult human heart transplant in the  
28 United States; and



1           WHEREAS, our country faces a growing shortage of  
2 physicians, with an anticipated shortage of 46,000 to 90,000  
3 physicians in all specialties by 2025; and  
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5           WHEREAS, it has been shown both in the State of Hawaii and  
6 elsewhere that physicians who are trained in a particular  
7 location tend to stay, live, and practice in that location; and  
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9           WHEREAS, there is a need for expanded and improved health  
10 care services across the entire state; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the need for increased, enhanced capacity of  
13 mental health resources is evidenced by the Department of  
14 Health's call for a new Hawaii state hospital, which is  
15 estimated to cost \$160,000,000; and  
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17           WHEREAS, according to the 2013 State of Hawaii Community  
18 Health Needs Assessment, limited access to health care is the  
19 top issue facing Hawaii Island; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the accelerated and shifting economic and  
22 population growth in West Hawaii has created a regional urban  
23 core inconveniently far from Kona Community Hospital, with a  
24 population too large to be accommodated by the facility's 94-bed  
25 capacity; and  
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27           WHEREAS, Kona Community Hospital has become financially  
28 unsustainable as of late, recently closing its skilled nursing  
29 unit and eliminating 34 positions; and  
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31           WHEREAS, a boost in international air traffic and tourism  
32 to West Hawaii is expected as the state's Congressional  
33 delegation is working to bring commercial international air  
34 service back to Kona International Airport; and  
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36           WHEREAS, the creation of a new hospital central to the  
37 population core of Hawaii Island and in close proximity to the  
38 Kona International Airport would benefit both resident and  
39 visiting patients and doctors alike; and  
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41           WHEREAS, improving the quality of care in West Hawaii and  
42 relocating the hospital nearer to the visitor-dense epicenter of



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1 Kailua-Kona on Hawaii Island will enable many patients to  
2 receive necessary care without having to be flown to Oahu at  
3 great expense, as is currently needed for many cases; and  
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5 WHEREAS, there appears to be state land available to devote  
6 to a new teaching hospital near the airport in West Hawaii,  
7 which is adjacent to the new Palamanui campus; and  
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9 WHEREAS, such land can support accommodations both for  
10 visiting patients and a burgeoning health workforce; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the cost of living and availability of affordable  
13 housing on Hawaii Island relative to that of Oahu will make it  
14 more likely that well-qualified resident physicians will come,  
15 train, and stay on Hawaii Island; and  
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17 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is now operating the  
18 North Hawaii Community Hospital on Hawaii Island and has  
19 indicated interest in becoming involved with the remaining  
20 health care facilities on Hawaii Island; and  
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22 WHEREAS, The Queen's Health Systems is supportive of the  
23 concept of a university hospital on Hawaii Island and has  
24 requested that a feasibility study be done in regard to this  
25 proposed hospital; and  
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27 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is already exploring the  
28 viability of public-private partnerships for our health care  
29 facilities through Act 103, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, and the  
30 collaboration between the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation's  
31 Maui Regional System and Kaiser Permanente; and  
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33 WHEREAS, it is envisioned that a substantial portion of the  
34 funding for the university hospital will be solicited from the  
35 Hawaii Island community; and  
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37 WHEREAS, the so-called Gold Coast of leeward Kona and  
38 Kohala is home to a number of extremely wealthy individuals who  
39 have expressed concerns about the level of health care on Hawaii  
40 Island; and



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1 WHEREAS, these wealthy individuals may support a new  
 2 university hospital in close proximity to their Hawaii Island  
 3 residences; and  
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5 WHEREAS, a university hospital could provide valuable  
 6 resources and opportunities to promptly address the unique  
 7 health needs of the state, such as the health effects of vog and  
 8 the current outbreak of dengue on Hawaii Island; and  
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10 WHEREAS, a university-affiliated teaching hospital has the  
 11 potential to cultivate much-needed services for the state,  
 12 including residency training in primary care and psychiatry as  
 13 well as veterans' services; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the state could benefit from a thorough analysis  
 16 of the feasibility of a university hospital in Hawaii, including  
 17 an examination of physician supply and demand, statewide patient  
 18 needs, accredited educational models, the readiness and  
 19 capability of various stakeholders, the resources and revenues  
 20 needed for planning, design, and construction, and realistic  
 21 timelines for development; now, therefore,  
 22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 25 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the John A. Burns  
 26 School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii is requested to  
 27 conduct a feasibility study for a university hospital in West  
 28 Hawaii; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 32 University of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the  
 33 University of Hawaii, and Dean of the John A. Burns School of  
 34 Medicine.  
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