

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO EXPAND THE KA‘U
RURAL HEALTH CLINIC TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO URGENT CARE AND
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, individuals with pre-existing mental health
2 conditions may be particularly vulnerable in an emergency; and
3

4 WHEREAS, social isolation and loneliness are closely linked
5 to poor health, with recent data from 2020 showing that a
6 significantly higher proportion of people who sheltered-in-place
7 during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) stay-at-home
8 order reported negative mental health effects resulting from
9 worry or stress compared to those who did not shelter-in-place;
10 and
11

12 WHEREAS physical isolation and loneliness during the
13 COVID-19 pandemic may present specific health risks for
14 households with adolescents and older adults; and
15

16 WHEREAS, rural health clinics help to address the
17 inadequate number of physicians available to serve Medicare
18 beneficiaries in rural areas and increase the availability of
19 medically necessary, face-to-face primary health services and
20 qualified preventative health services furnished by rural health
21 clinic practitioners, including physicians, nurse practitioners,
22 physical assistants, certified nurse-midwives, clinical
23 psychologists, and social workers; and
24

25 WHEREAS, in rural, tight-knit communities where there is
26 little privacy, residents are dissuaded from seeking mental
27 health service for fear of community condemnation, prejudices,
28 or negative perceptions; and
29

30 WHEREAS, rural health clinics serve an essential role in
31 underserved communities such as Ka‘u on Hawai‘i island,
32 enabling greater accessibility to behavioral health services for
33 Medicaid patients; now, therefore,
34

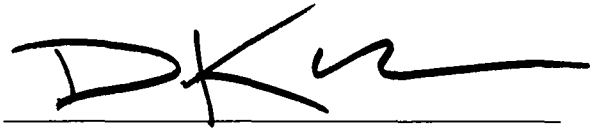


S.R. NO. 190

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
3 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is urged to expand
4 the Ka'u Rural Health Clinic to improve access to urgent care and
5 outpatient behavioral health services; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Directors of the
9 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.
10
11
12

OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DKU', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

