
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH A
VETERINARY MEDICINE EXPANSION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE
FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the State faces a critical shortage of
2 veterinarians, especially in rural areas and for large animal
3 and agricultural veterinary services; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State's lack of a Doctor of Veterinary
6 Medicine program forces aspiring veterinarians to seek education
7 on the United States mainland or internationally, which can
8 increase financial burdens and reduce the likelihood that a
9 newly licensed veterinarian will return to Hawaii to practice;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology
13 program has a strong foundation in veterinary education,
14 providing students with hands-on experience and producing
15 skilled veterinary technicians; and
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17 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Doctor of Veterinary
18 Medicine program in Hawaii could include collaborations between
19 the University of Hawaii System, private veterinary practices,
20 and national accredited bodies to ensure academic excellence and
21 program sustainability; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of
26 Hawaii System is requested to establish a Veterinary Medicine
27 Expansion Working Group to explore the feasibility of developing
28 a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
2 to include:

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- 4 (1) The President of the University of Hawaii, or the
5 President's designee, who is requested to serve as the
6 chairperson of the Working Group;
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- 8 (2) The Chancellor of University of Hawaii at Hilo, or the
9 Chancellor's designee;
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- 11 (3) A representative of Windward Community College's
12 Veterinary Technology program;
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- 14 (4) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
15 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, or the
16 Dean's designee;
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- 18 (5) The Chair of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chair's
19 designee;
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- 21 (6) Representatives from private veterinary practice,
22 including large animal and small animal practitioners
23 invited by the President of the University of Hawaii;
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- 25 (7) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
26 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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- 28 (8) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President
29 of the Senate; and
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- 31 (9) Any other stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the
32 working group; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Working Group is requested to
35 conduct a feasibility study addressing:
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- 37 (1) Potential partnerships with veterinary schools on the
38 United States mainland to facilitate clinical
39 rotations;
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- (2) The alignment of the State's education and workforce pipelines to feed into the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;
- (3) The infrastructure and facilities needed to support a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;
- (4) The State's ability to meet accreditation requirements of the American Veterinary Medical Association;
- (5) The faculty and curriculum needed to support the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and to meet accreditation requirements; and
- (6) The availability of funding, including public-private partnerships and federal grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii, Chair of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and Chancellor of Windward Community College.

