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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO SEARCH FOR A SITE IN LOWER PUNA TO HOUSE A LEARNING CENTER.

WHEREAS, in the area of higher education, the lower Puna area on the Big Island is underserved; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a learning center in lower Puna on the Big Island would provide surrounding communities access to higher education and would benefit the University of Hawaii at Hilo by providing additional educational resources; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the learning center in lower Puna would be similar to the North Hawaii Education and Research Center in Honokaa such that the Puna learning center would:

- (1) Offer selected courses via live and distance instruction to an underserved area;
- (2) Create a research station that will serve as a base for research related to lower Puna and other areas of close proximity;
- (3) Enhance community service efforts of the University of Hawaii at Hilo;
- (4) Facilitate community outreach and access to higher education and provide a university presence in the area of lower Puna for community service and research; and
- (5) Facilitate student entry into the University of Hawaii at Hilo and provide access for students in the area of higher education; and

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WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Hilo will require capital improvement project funding for site location, planning, design, and construction of a learning center in lower Puna; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is requested to search for a site in lower Puna to house a learning center that is comparable to the North Hawaii Education and Research Center in Honokaa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting its search, the University of Hawaii at Hilo is requested to hold community meetings to assess the educational needs of the community and the possibility for research initiatives in the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii at Hilo is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation relating to the establishment of a learning center in lower Puna, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

OFFERED BY:

HCR LRB 11-2591.doc

