

MAR 04 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF A HOSPITAL IN NORTH KONA.

1 WHEREAS, the population of North Kona on the island of
2 Hawai'i has significantly increased over the years, which has
3 corresponded with a steady increase in the need for convenient
4 access to medical services; and

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6 WHEREAS, today the growing community of North Kona faces a
7 severe shortage of medical care and hospital services; and

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9 WHEREAS, the residents of North Kona would greatly benefit
10 from the addition of a hospital in their community; and

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12 WHEREAS, the accelerated and shifting economic and
13 population growth in North Kona has created a regional urban
14 core inconveniently far from Kona Community Hospital with a
15 population too large to be accommodated by the facility's
16 ninety-four bed capacity; and

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18 WHEREAS, the island of Hawai'i is being impacted by the
19 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

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21 WHEREAS, there are concerns about the shortage of staff in
22 hospitals on the island of Hawai'i due to demands created by
23 COVID-19; and

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25 WHEREAS, there are also concerns that hospitals on the
26 island of Hawai'i will reach capacity and have insufficient
27 resources to adequately respond to COVID-19; and

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29 WHEREAS, the island of Hawai'i has recently witnessed a
30 spike in COVID-19 cases, and a majority of those cases are on
31 the west side of the island of Hawai'i; and

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33 WHEREAS, a hospital in the North Kona area would be
34 particularly beneficial should Kona Community Hospital become at



1 risk of surpassing its critical care and maximum bed capacity
2 due to COVID-19; and

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4 WHEREAS, there has already been a long-time community
5 demand for a larger and more accessible hospital in North Kona;
6 now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
10 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested to
11 convene a task force to conduct a feasibility study for the
12 construction of a hospital in North Kona; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
15 include the following members or their designees:

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17 (1) A member of the Senate appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;
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20 (2) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by
21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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23 (3) The Director of Health;
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25 (4) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health
26 Systems Corporation, West Hawaii Region;
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28 (5) A member of the West Hawaii Regional Health System
29 Board of Directors; and
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31 (6) Any other representatives the Regional Chief Executive
32 Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West
33 Hawaii Region, or the Chief Executive Officer's
34 designee, deems necessary; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Executive Officer of
37 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii Region, or
38 the Chief Executive Officer's designee is requested to serve as
39 the chairperson of the task force; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting of the task
42 force is requested to be held no later than June 1, 2021; and




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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the assistance of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, 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 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to be dissolved on June 30, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Corporate Office; and Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii Region.

OFFERED BY:  _____

