
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 AND A HEALTH CARE NEEDS
ASSESSMENT OF THE WEST HAWAII REGION.

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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1 WHEREAS, a hospital in the North Kona area would be
2 particularly beneficial should Kona Community Hospital become at
3 risk of surpassing its critical care and maximum bed capacity
4 due to COVID-19; and
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6 WHEREAS, there has already been a long-time community
7 demand for a larger and more accessible hospital in North Kona;
8 now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
12 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested to
13 convene a task force to conduct:
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- 15 (1) A feasibility study for the construction of a hospital
16 in North Kona; and
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18 (2) A health care needs assessment of the West Hawaii
19 region; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
22 include the following members or their designees:
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- 24 (1) A member of the Senate appointed by the President of
25 the Senate;
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27 (2) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by
28 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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30 (3) The Director of Health;
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32 (4) The Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
33 Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii Region;
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35 (5) A representative from Queen's North Hawaii Community
36 Hospital;
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38 (6) A member of the West Hawaii Regional Health System
39 Board of Directors; and
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41 (7) Any other representatives the Regional Chief Executive
42 Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West



1 Hawaii Region, or the Regional Chief Executive
2 Officer's designee, deems necessary; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Chief Executive
5 Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii
6 Region, or the Regional Chief Executive Officer's designee is
7 requested to serve as the chairperson of the task force; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting of the task
10 force is requested to be held no later than June 1, 2021; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
13 assistance of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, is
14 requested to submit a report of its findings and
15 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
16 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
17 the Regular Session of 2022; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
20 be dissolved on June 30, 2022; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; Chief
24 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation,
25 Corporate Office; Chief Executive Officer of The Queen's Health
26 Systems; and Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
27 Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii Region.

