

MAR 10 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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  
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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 due to the  
13 COVID-19 pandemic or geographic separation from other people may  
14 present specific health risks for households with adolescents  
15 and older adults; and  
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17           WHEREAS, rural health clinics help to address the  
18 inadequate number of physicians available to serve Medicare  
19 beneficiaries in rural areas and increase the availability of  
20 medically necessary, face-to-face primary health services and  
21 qualified preventative health services furnished by rural health  
22 clinic practitioners, including physicians, nurse practitioners,  
23 physician assistants, certified nurse-midwives, clinical  
24 psychologists, and social workers; and  
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26           WHEREAS, in rural, tight-knit communities where there is  
27 little privacy, residents are dissuaded from seeking mental  
28 health service for fear of community condemnation, prejudices,  
29 or negative perceptions; and  
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31           WHEREAS, rural health clinics serve an essential role in  
32 supporting underserved and isolated communities such as Ka‘u on



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1 Hawai'i island, enabling greater accessibility to behavioral  
2 health services for Medicaid patients; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Health  
7 Systems Corporation is urged to expand the Ka'u Rural Health  
8 Clinic to improve access to urgent care and outpatient  
9 behavioral health services; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Chief  
13 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

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OFFERED BY:

