

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY THE NEED AND, IF APPLICABLE, CONDUCT A SITE ASSESSMENT FOR A NEW HOSPITAL IN NORTH KONA.

1 WHEREAS, the population of North Kona on the island of
2 Hawai'i has significantly increased over the last few years,
3 which has corresponded with a steady increase in the need for
4 convenient 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 an
8 additional hospital in the North Kona community would provide
9 further benefit to the area; and

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11 WHEREAS, the accelerated and shifting economic and
12 population growth in North Kona has created a regional urban
13 core that is inconveniently located a far distance from the Kona
14 Community Hospital, and the steep growth in population has
15 overwhelmed the facility's ninety-four bed capacity; and

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17 WHEREAS, as the only hospital servicing residents in West
18 Hawai'i, Kona Community Hospital is located along a single-lane
19 roadway that is oftentimes gridlocked with traffic, increasing
20 the difficulty for emergency vehicles and those seeking care to
21 access the hospital quickly; and

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23 WHEREAS, although there have been efforts to expand Kona
24 Community Hospital, improvements have been stalled due to the
25 facility's wastewater system, which has currently reached
26 capacity; and

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28 WHEREAS, in addition to the logistical issues with the
29 location of the Kona Community Hospital, the coronavirus disease
30 2019 pandemic's effect on West Hawai'i has underscored concerns
31 with staffing shortages, which are further exacerbated by
32 medical professionals who are required to commute from the North
33 Kona area; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Senate offered Senate Concurrent
2 Resolution No. 53, Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 2021,
3 which requested the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to conduct
4 a feasibility study for construction of a hospital in North Kona
5 and an assessment of health care needs of the West Hawai'i
6 region; and

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8 WHEREAS, in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution
9 No. 53, Senate Draft 1, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
10 has confirmed that it would complete the requested feasibility
11 study; and

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13 WHEREAS, in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution
14 No. 53, Senate Draft 1, Community First Hawaii has confirmed
15 that it would complete an island-wide community health needs
16 assessment; and

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18 WHEREAS, the findings from the Hawaii Health Systems
19 Corporation feasibility study and the community health needs
20 assessment conducted by Community First, Inc., a 501(c)(3)
21 nonprofit corporation in Hawaii will identify the need for a
22 hospital to serve North Kona; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
26 that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is requested to
27 convene a task force to:

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29 (1) Review the findings of the Hawaii Health Systems
30 Corporation's feasibility study as requested by Senate
31 Concurrent Resolution No. 53, Senate Draft 1, and
32 Community First, Inc.'s island-wide health care needs
33 assessment to identify the need for a hospital to
34 serve North Kona; and
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36 (2) Collaborate and work with the Department of Land and
37 Natural Resources' Land Division to conduct a site
38 assessment to identify and evaluate viable locations
39 for a new hospital site in North Kona at the
40 appropriate time; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
2 include the following members or their designees:

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- 4 (1) A member of the Senate appointed by the President of
5 the Senate;
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 - 7 (2) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by
8 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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 - 10 (3) The Director of Health;
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 - 12 (4) The Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural
13 Resources;
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 - 15 (5) The Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
16 Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii Region;
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 - 18 (6) A representative from Queen's North Hawaii Community
19 Hospital;
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 - 21 (7) A member of the West Hawaii Regional Health System
22 Board of Directors; and
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 - 24 (8) Any other representatives the Regional Chief Executive
25 Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West
26 Hawaii Region, or the Regional Chief Executive
27 Officer's designee, deems necessary; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Chief Executive
30 Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii
31 Region, or the Regional Chief Executive Officer's designee is
32 requested to serve as the chairperson of the task force; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an initial meeting of the task
35 force is requested to be held no later than June 1, 2022; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
38 assistance of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, is
39 requested to submit a report of its findings and
40 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
41 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
42 the Regular Session of 2023; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to be dissolved on June 30, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Corporate Officer; Chief Executive Officer of The Queen's Health Systems; and Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, West Hawaii Region.

OFFERED BY:

