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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A KONA HOSPITAL SITE ASSESSMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the community of  
2 West Hawaii is challenged in terms of available medical services  
3 and in need of a new medical facility. Kona community hospital  
4 is currently housed in an aging facility that was constructed in  
5 1974. The population in the Kona area has grown and migrated  
6 north since the hospital was built almost fifty years ago, so  
7 the hospital is no longer located in the area with the highest  
8 residential density and need for services. While the highway in  
9 North Kona has been expanded, the hospital in South Kona sits on  
10 a single-lane highway that is vulnerable to traffic congestion,  
11 making it difficult for emergency vehicles and others to reach  
12 the hospital quickly.

13           The legislature notes that, although there is a need to  
14 expand the current Kona community hospital facility so that more  
15 services can be provided to the community, the expansion is  
16 prevented by the facility's wastewater system, which is already  
17 at capacity. The hospital's location and need for modernization



1 also makes it difficult to recruit new doctors and other medical  
2 personnel and to retain current medical staff. This further  
3 exacerbates the physician and health care worker shortage that  
4 is being experienced statewide.

5 The legislature recognizes that the Kona community has  
6 outgrown the current facility, creating a crucial need for a new  
7 hospital in Kona. A new, more modern facility can provide  
8 additional services, better access to the airport for medical  
9 airlifts, and a more convenient location for the area's  
10 residents. The new hospital will also serve as an attractive  
11 workplace and will help the State recruit doctors and health  
12 care workers to fill the State's critical need.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Require the Hawaii health systems corporation to  
15 perform a needs assessment to determine the demand for  
16 a new hospital in North Kona; and  
17 (2) Appropriate moneys for a needs assessment and site  
18 assessment to identify and evaluate viable locations  
19 for a new hospital site in North Kona.

20 SECTION 2. The Hawaii health systems corporation shall  
21 conduct a needs assessment to determine the demand for a new



1 hospital in North Kona, to be performed before a site  
2 assessment, to identify and evaluate viable locations for a new  
3 hospital in North Kona.

4 The Hawaii health systems corporation shall submit a report  
5 of its findings and recommendations of the hospital needs  
6 assessment and site assessment, including any proposed  
7 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
8 to the convening of the regular session of 2023.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
12 the needs assessment required by section 2 of this Act and a  
13 site assessment to identify and evaluate viable locations for a  
14 new hospital in North Kona on the island of Hawaii.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii health  
16 systems corporation for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; North Kona; Hospital; Needs Assessment; Site Assessment; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to conduct a hospital needs assessment for North Kona before performing a site assessment. Appropriates moneys to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to conduct a hospital needs assessment and a site assessment to identify and evaluate viable locations for a new hospital in North Kona on the island of Hawaii. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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