

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OFFICE, ALSO KNOWN AS A FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER OFFICE, IN KA'Ū IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's Child and Adolescent
2 Mental Health Division manages Community Mental Health Centers,
3 also known as Family Guidance Centers, that provide Hawai'i's
4 children and youth who have serious emotional or behavioral
5 challenges access to essential intensive mental health services;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, the school district for the island of Hawai'i
9 originally had one Family Guidance Center; however, due to the
10 disproportionately high number of children and youth enrolled in
11 its programs, the Center's jurisdiction was divided into two
12 centers: the East Hawai'i Family Guidance Center and West
13 Hawai'i Family Guidance Center; and
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15 WHEREAS, the East Hawai'i Family Guidance Center operates
16 one office located in Hilo and the West Hawai'i Family Guidance
17 Center operates two offices--one each in Waimea and Kona; and
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19 WHEREAS, the West Hawai'i Family Guidance Center's Kona
20 office has been closed for some time as the lease for a new
21 premises is being finalized, and as a result, the Waimea office
22 currently serves the entire western region of the island of
23 Hawai'i; and
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25 WHEREAS, due to the current closure of the Kona office,
26 children and youth who reside in the southern region of the
27 island of Hawai'i are required to travel as far as one hundred
28 miles to visit the Waimea office or the Hilo office; and
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1 WHEREAS, some children and youth who reside in the southern
2 region of the island of Hawai'i will still be required to travel
3 as far as seventy miles to reach the Kona office even after it
4 reopens; and
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6 WHEREAS, establishment of a Family Guidance Center office
7 in the southern region of the island of Hawai'i is imperative to
8 protect the health and safety of the children and youth who
9 reside in the region and need swift access to intensive mental
10 health services; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
15 Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division is urged to
16 conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a Community
17 Mental Health Center Office, also known as a Family Guidance
18 Center office, in Ka'u in the county of Hawai'i in addition to
19 the existing Family Guidance Center offices located in Waimea,
20 Kona, and Hilo, to serve the needs of the children and youth who
21 reside in the southern region of the county; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Child and Adolescent Mental
24 Health Division is requested to submit a report of its findings
25 from the feasibility study and recommendations, including any
26 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
27 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
31 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of
32 Education.
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OFFERED BY: 

