

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION TO PARTNER WITH
THE KA'Ū RURAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., TO
CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE THE DEMAND FOR AND
ACCESS TO URGENT CARE AND OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SERVICES IN THE KA'Ū DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, individuals with pre-existing mental health
2 conditions may be particularly vulnerable in an emergency, and
3 in particular, physical isolation and loneliness during the
4 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic may present specific health
5 risks for households with adolescents and older adults; and
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7 WHEREAS, rural health clinics address inadequate supplies
8 of physicians serving Medicaid beneficiaries in rural areas and
9 increase the availability of medically necessary, face-to-face
10 primary health services; and
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12 WHEREAS, rural health clinics also provide access to
13 qualified preventative health services furnished by licensed
14 health practitioners, including physicians, nurse practitioners,
15 physical assistants, certified nurse-midwives, clinical
16 psychologists, and social workers; and
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18 WHEREAS, rural health clinics serve an essential role in
19 underserved communities such the Ka'ū district in the county of
20 Hawai'i, enabling greater appointment availability for Medicaid
21 patients; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association, Inc.
24 is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve access
25 to quality health care in rural communities in the Ka'ū district
26 in the County of Hawai'i; now, therefore,
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Health



1 Systems Corporation is requested to partner with the Ka'ū Rural
2 Health Community Association, Inc., to conduct a needs
3 assessment to determine the demand for and access to urgent care
4 and outpatient behavioral health services in the Ka'ū district;
5 and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Health Systems
8 Corporation is requested to submit a report of its findings and
9 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
10 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
15 Chair of the Board of Directors of Hawaii Health Systems
16 Corporation, and Executive Director of Ka'ū Rural Health
17 Community Association, Inc.
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ken", is written over a horizontal line.