

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO INVESTIGATE AND ADDRESS  
THE FEASIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF A NURSING PROGRAM AT  
HONOLULU COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

1           WHEREAS, nursing demands in the State have increased  
2 significantly, which is further exacerbated by a dire statewide  
3 nursing shortage; and

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5           WHEREAS, nursing vacancies have a negative effect on  
6 patient access, quality of care, and nurses' morale; and

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8           WHEREAS, Kalihi, which encompasses the surrounding  
9 neighborhoods of Iwilei, Palama, and Liliha, has a large number  
10 of Oahu's most vulnerable populations including individuals with  
11 chronic health conditions and individuals experiencing  
12 homelessness; and

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14           WHEREAS, vulnerable populations within Kalihi and the  
15 surrounding area are more prone to developing health problems  
16 such as diseases of the extremities and skin disorders, and face  
17 an increased risk of physical assault or sexual violence; and

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19           WHEREAS, there are insufficient qualified health care  
20 professionals, including nurses, in Kalihi to address and  
21 fulfill physical and mental health care needs for individuals  
22 with chronic health conditions or experiencing homelessness; and

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24           WHEREAS, numerous licensed assisted living homes, including  
25 Level 1 adult residential care homes, community care foster  
26 family homes and long-term care facilities, operate in Kalihi  
27 and the surrounding neighborhoods; and

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29           WHEREAS, currently, Kapiolani Community College offers the  
30 only community college-level nursing program within urban  
31 Honolulu; and

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1 WHEREAS, a 2017 study published in the Cureus Journal of  
2 Medical Science found that medicine rotations in inner-city  
3 areas did not impact attitudes towards individuals with chronic  
4 health conditions or experiencing homelessness; and  
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6 WHEREAS, providing students from Kalihi and the surrounding  
7 neighborhoods with opportunities to participate in rotations  
8 with health care providers in the area may address vacancies in  
9 the ongoing nursing shortage, offer students educational and  
10 professional opportunities closer to home, and allow students to  
11 work closely with community partners experiencing critical needs  
12 to support vulnerable populations; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the ability to empathize and understand the needs  
15 of vulnerable individuals undergoing treatment creates  
16 opportunities to understand the complexity of providing medical  
17 care, improves cross-cultural communication skills, and provides  
18 a stronger network of health care providers with a unique  
19 understanding of the community; and  
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21 WHEREAS, developing a nursing program within Honolulu  
22 Community College may also motivate students to pursue education  
23 beyond a community college-level education, which may lead to an  
24 increase of highly skilled nurses in the State; now, therefore,  
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
29 Hawaii is requested to examine the feasibility and accessibility  
30 of the development and implementation of a nursing program at  
31 Honolulu Community College; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is  
34 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
35 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
36 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
37 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
41 University of Hawaii System, Vice President for Community  
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# S.C.R. NO. 215

1 Colleges of the University of Hawaii, Chancellor of Honolulu  
2 Community College, and Chairperson of the Kalihi-Palama  
3 Neighborhood Board.

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OFFERED BY:

*Amar Mercado Kim*

