
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING VARIOUS STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO TAKE CERTAIN
ACTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY LEVERAGE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN
THE STATE TO ENSURE CAREER READINESS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the State is experiencing a significant shortage
2 of workers in all sectors, including agriculture and health
3 care-related fields for a myriad of reasons such as faculty
4 shortages, decreased funding, and limited educational
5 opportunities; and

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7 WHEREAS, interdisciplinary learning experiences are
8 critically needed to prepare students to address the challenges
9 the State faces in both agriculture and health care; and

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11 WHEREAS, supplemental opportunities to education such as
12 career development, apprenticeships, internships, practicum
13 experiences, and dual enrollment for high school students
14 creates an educated and trained population to enter Hawaii's
15 workforce; and

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17 WHEREAS, the State has a responsibility to fill workforce
18 vacancies that support regional economic needs and local
19 industries; and

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21 WHEREAS, the State has an additional responsibility to
22 fully utilize its resources such as funding, the workforce
23 population, and specialized programs to address the State's
24 long-term growth; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the imbalance of educational and career training
27 opportunities, in addition to the under-utilization of funds and
28 inaction in addressing systemic problems within the education
29 sector, creates additional challenges to achieve an educated,
30 trained population to meet Hawaii's workforce demands; and
31



1 WHEREAS, nursing demands in the State have increased
2 significantly, which is further exacerbated by a dire statewide
3 nursing shortage; and
4

5 WHEREAS, nursing vacancies have a negative effect on
6 patient access, quality of care, and nurses' morale; and
7

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
18

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
23

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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33 WHEREAS, a 2017 study published in the Cureus Journal of
34 Medical Science found that medicine rotations in inner-city
35 areas did not impact health care providers' attitudes towards
36 individuals with chronic health conditions or experiencing
37 homelessness; and
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39 WHEREAS, providing students from Kalihi and the surrounding
40 neighborhoods with opportunities to participate in rotations
41 with health care providers in the area may address vacancies in
42 the ongoing nursing shortage, offer students educational and



1 professional opportunities closer to home, and allow students to
2 work closely with community partners experiencing critical needs
3 to support vulnerable populations; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the ability to empathize and understand the needs
6 of vulnerable individuals undergoing treatment creates
7 opportunities to understand the complexity of providing medical
8 care, improves cross-cultural communication skills, and provides
9 a stronger network of health care providers with a unique
10 understanding of the community; and
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12 WHEREAS, developing a nursing program within Honolulu
13 Community College may also motivate students to pursue education
14 beyond a community college-level education, which may lead to an
15 increase of highly skilled nurses in the State; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education is a
18 statewide partnership led by the Executive Office on Early
19 Learning, Department of Education, and University of Hawaii
20 System; and
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22 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents approved
23 a merger between the Office of the State Director for Career and
24 Technical Education and Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, it is unclear how much engagement, oversight, and
28 direction the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and Office
29 of the Vice President for Academic Strategy provide Hawaii P-20
30 Partnerships for Education; and
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32 WHEREAS, since its inception in 2003, Hawaii P-20
33 Partnership for Education has grown to comprise a permanent
34 office with thirty staff members, an advisory council of
35 approximately thirty members, and a statewide portfolio of
36 programs supported by an annual operating budget of
37 approximately \$6,500,000; and
38

39 WHEREAS, the State offers many other college and career
40 readiness workforce development training programs, including
41 Early College, Jump Start, Hawaii Nutrition Employment and
42 Training, Career and Technical Education, Rapid Response



1 services, Oahu Back to Work, Perkins V, Hana Career Pathways,
2 the Workforce Resiliency Initiative, and Vocational and Applied
3 Technology; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature has received numerous requests to
6 fund college and career readiness workforce development training
7 programs that do not coordinate and have seemingly no alignment
8 with statewide goals, objectives, shared metrics, and
9 initiatives; and
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11 WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to more efficiently
12 address the State's workforce vacancies and regional economic
13 development needs by consolidating, collaborating, and creating
14 cohesion between the programs offered by various state offices,
15 including the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
16 Tourism; Department of Education; Department of Human Resources
17 Development; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; and
18 University of Hawaii; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
21 Agriculture and Human Resources recently amended its funding
22 formula to exclude interdisciplinary graduate students, reducing
23 the funding allocation for the Department of Molecular
24 Biosciences and Biotechnology by thirty percent; and
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26 WHEREAS, due to these budget cuts, the College of Tropical
27 Agriculture and Human Resources has reportedly de-emphasized the
28 use of hands-on learning in teaching fundamental molecular
29 biosciences research; and
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31 WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
32 Resources has also offered fewer opportunities for Molecular
33 Biosciences and Biotechnology students to have interdisciplinary
34 learning experiences with mentors in the College and John A.
35 Burns School of Medicine; and
36

37 WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
38 Resources has failed to review renewals of probationary faculty
39 positions holistically based on teaching evaluations,
40 publications, and the receipt of extramural funding; and
41



1 WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
2 Resources leadership has not followed through on promises to
3 create faculty positions to assist with filling vacancies in
4 areas of vital concern to the State, including positions in
5 wastewater management and bioremediation; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture
8 and Human Resources has approved leave without pay for faculty
9 members to pursue administrative positions at international
10 universities, in violation of University of Hawaii Board of
11 Regents policies and the collective bargaining agreement between
12 the Board of Regents and University of Hawaii Professional
13 Assembly; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture
16 and Human Resources has reportedly been made aware of persistent
17 financial, personal, and professional conflicts of interest in
18 the management of various units within the College and has
19 failed to resolve these conflicts or remove department chairs
20 having conflicts of interest; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that various state
25 government entities are requested to take certain actions to
26 effectively leverage educational resources in the State to
27 ensure career readiness workforce development; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:
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31 (1) The University of Hawaii is requested to:
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33 (A) Examine the feasibility of offering a nursing
34 program, allied health program, or both at
35 Honolulu Community College provided by Honolulu
36 Community College or in coordination with the
37 other University of Hawaii Community Colleges, to
38 meet regional workforce needs;
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40 (B) Identify University of Hawaii workforce
41 development training programs, including P-20,
42 that prepare residents for employment in Hawaii;



1 actions to improve alignment of programs with
2 state and county workforce development and
3 University of Hawaii strategic plans; and key
4 performance metrics for University of Hawaii's
5 workforce development training programs,
6 including but not limited to, alignment to
7 statewide energy and food security goals pursuant
8 to section 269-92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and
9 Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, regional
10 economic opportunities as described in the Hawaii
11 Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development
12 Strategy; facilities; and coordination to
13 existing workforce development training programs
14 both within the University of Hawaii System and
15 across the State; and
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17 (C) Submit a report of its findings and
18 recommendations, including any proposed
19 legislation, to the Legislature no later than
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
21 Session of 2023; and
22

23 (2) The Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to:

24 (A) Identify cooperative extension agencies similar
25 to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
26 Agriculture and Human Resources across the
27 nation; and
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29 (B) Submit a report evaluating the University of
30 Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
31 Resources and its leadership, including the
32 Legislative Reference Bureau's comparative
33 analysis of the University of Hawaii College of
34 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to
35 similar cooperative extension agencies across the
36 nation, and recommendations to better align the
37 mission of the University of Hawaii College of
38 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources with
39 statewide food security goals pursuant to Act
40 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, to the
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1 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
2 the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller,
6 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Director of Labor and
7 Industrial Relations, Chairperson of the Workforce Development
8 Council, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University
9 of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawaii System, Vice
10 President for Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii,
11 Chancellor of Honolulu Community College, Dean of the University
12 of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,
13 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Executive Director
14 of the Hawaii Government Employees Association, State Director
15 of United Public Workers, and Chairperson of the Kalihi-Palama
16 Neighborhood Board.

