

MAR 11 2022

SENATE 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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33 WHEREAS, a 2017 study published in the Cureus Journal of
34 Medical Science found that medicine rotations in inner-city



1 areas did not impact attitudes towards individuals with chronic
2 health conditions or experiencing homelessness; and

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4 WHEREAS, providing students from Kalihi and the surrounding
5 neighborhoods with opportunities to participate in rotations
6 with health care providers in the area may address vacancies in
7 the ongoing nursing shortage, offer students educational and
8 professional opportunities closer to home, and allow students to
9 work closely with community partners experiencing critical needs
10 to support vulnerable populations; and

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12 WHEREAS, the ability to empathize and understand the needs
13 of vulnerable individuals undergoing treatment creates
14 opportunities to understand the complexity of providing medical
15 care, improves cross-cultural communication skills, and provides
16 a stronger network of health care providers with a unique
17 understanding of the community; and

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19 WHEREAS, developing a nursing program within Honolulu
20 Community College may also motivate students to pursue education
21 beyond a community college-level education, which may lead to an
22 increase of highly skilled nurses in the State; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
26 that the University of Hawaii is requested to examine the
27 feasibility and accessibility of the development and
28 implementation of a nursing program at Honolulu Community
29 College; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
32 requested to submit a report of its findings and
33 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
34 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
35 the Regular Session of 2023; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of
39 Hawaii System, Vice President for Community
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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: *Anna Mercado Kii*

