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# SENATE 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

16  
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

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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



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

13  
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

28  
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

38  
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  
11

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  
21

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  
26

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  
31

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  
25

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  
30

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,  
24 that various state government entities are requested to take  
25 certain actions to effectively leverage educational resources in  
26 the State to ensure career readiness workforce development; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:  
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30 (1) The University of Hawaii is requested to:  
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32 (A) Examine the feasibility of offering a nursing  
33 program, allied health program, or both at  
34 Honolulu Community College provided by Honolulu  
35 Community College or in coordination with the  
36 other University of Hawaii Community Colleges, to  
37 meet regional workforce needs;  
38

39 (B) Identify University of Hawaii workforce  
40 development training programs, including P-20,  
41 that prepare residents for employment in Hawaii;  
42 actions to improve alignment of programs with



1 state and county workforce development and  
 2 University of Hawaii strategic plans; and key  
 3 performance metrics for University of Hawaii's  
 4 workforce development training programs,  
 5 including but not limited to, alignment to  
 6 statewide energy and food security goals pursuant  
 7 to section 269-92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and  
 8 Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, regional  
 9 economic opportunities as described in the Hawaii  
 10 Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development  
 11 Strategy; facilities; and coordination to  
 12 existing workforce development training programs  
 13 both within the University of Hawaii System and  
 14 across the State; and

15  
 16 (C) Submit a report of its findings and  
 17 recommendations, including any proposed  
 18 legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
 19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
 20 Session of 2023; and

21  
 22 (2) The Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to:

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 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

28  
 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  
 41 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
 42 the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and



1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, Chairperson of the  
4 Board of Education, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations,  
5 Chairperson of the Workforce Development Council, Chairperson of  
6 the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, President of  
7 the University of Hawaii System, Vice President for Community  
8 Colleges of the University of Hawaii, Chancellor of Honolulu  
9 Community College, Dean of the University of Hawaii College of  
10 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Director of the  
11 Legislative Reference Bureau, Executive Director of the Hawaii  
12 Government Employees Association, State Director of United  
13 Public Workers, and Chairperson of the Kalihi-Palama  
14 Neighborhood Board.

