
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
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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, its 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 on systemic problems within the education sector,
29 creates additional challenges to achieve an educated, trained
30 population to meet Hawaii's workforce demands; and
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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

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 attitudes towards individuals with chronic
36 health conditions or experiencing homelessness; and

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38 WHEREAS, providing students from Kalihi and the surrounding
39 neighborhoods with opportunities to participate in rotations
40 with health care providers in the area may address vacancies in
41 the ongoing nursing shortage, offer students educational and
42 professional opportunities closer to home, and allow students to



1 work closely with community partners experiencing critical needs
2 to support vulnerable populations; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the ability to empathize and understand the needs
5 of vulnerable individuals undergoing treatment creates
6 opportunities to understand the complexity of providing medical
7 care, improves cross-cultural communication skills, and provides
8 a stronger network of health care providers with a unique
9 understanding of the community; and
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11 WHEREAS, developing a nursing program within Honolulu
12 Community College may also motivate students to pursue education
13 beyond a community college-level education, which may lead to an
14 increase of highly skilled nurses in the State; and
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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education is a
17 statewide partnership led by the Executive Office on Early
18 Learning, Department of Education, and University of Hawaii
19 System; and
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21 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents approved
22 a merger between the Office of the State Director for Career and
23 Technical Education and Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, it is unclear how much engagement, oversight, and
27 direction the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and Office
28 of the Vice President for Academic Strategy provide Hawaii P-20
29 Partnerships for Education; and
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31 WHEREAS, since its inception in 2003, Hawaii P-20
32 Partnership for Education has grown to comprise a permanent
33 office with thirty staff members, an advisory council of
34 approximately thirty members, and a statewide portfolio of
35 programs supported by an annual operating budget of
36 approximately \$6,500,000; and
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38 WHEREAS, the State offers many other college and career
39 readiness workforce development training programs, including
40 Early College, Jump Start, Hawaii Nutrition Employment and
41 Training, Career and Technical Education, Rapid Response
42 services, Oahu Back to Work, Perkins V, Hana Career Pathways,



1 the Workforce Resiliency Initiative, and Vocational and Applied
2 Technology; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Legislature has received numerous requests to
5 fund college and career readiness workforce development training
6 programs that do not coordinate and have seemingly no alignment
7 with statewide goals, objectives, shared metrics, and
8 initiatives; and

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10 WHEREAS, there may be opportunities to more efficiently
11 address the State's workforce vacancies and regional economic
12 development needs by consolidating, collaborating, and creating
13 cohesion between the programs offered by various state offices,
14 including the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
15 Tourism; Department of Education; Department of Human Resources
16 Development; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; and
17 University of Hawaii; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
20 Agriculture and Human Resources recently amended its funding
21 formula to exclude interdisciplinary graduate students, reducing
22 the funding allocation for the Department of Molecular
23 Biosciences and Biotechnology by thirty percent; and

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25 WHEREAS, due to these budget cuts, the College of Tropical
26 Agriculture and Human Resources has reportedly de-emphasized the
27 use of hands-on learning in teaching fundamental molecular
28 biosciences research; and

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30 WHEREAS, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
31 Resources has also offered fewer opportunities for Molecular
32 Biosciences and Biotechnology students to have interdisciplinary
33 learning experiences with mentors in the College and John A.
34 Burns School of Medicine; and

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

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41 WHEREAS, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
42 Resources leadership has not followed through on promises to



1 create faculty positions to assist with filling vacancies in
2 areas of vital concern to the State, including positions in
3 wastewater management and bioremediation; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture
6 and Human Resources has approved leave without pay for faculty
7 members to pursue administrative positions at international
8 universities, in violation of University of Hawaii Board of
9 Regents policies and the collective bargaining agreement between
10 the Board of Regents and University of Hawaii Professional
11 Assembly; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture
14 and Human Resources has reportedly been made aware of persistent
15 financial, personal, and professional conflicts of interest in
16 the management of various units within the College and has
17 failed to resolve these conflicts or remove department chairs
18 having conflicts of interest; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
22 that:
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24 (1) The University of Hawaii is requested to:

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26 (A) Examine the feasibility and accessibility of the
27 development and implementation of a nursing
28 program at Honolulu Community College; and
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30 (B) Submit a report of its findings and
31 recommendations, including any proposed
32 legislation, to the Legislature no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
34 Session of 2023; and
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36 (2) The Auditor is requested to conduct performance audits
37 of:

38
39 (A) The University of Hawaii College of Tropical
40 Agriculture and Human Resources, including an
41 assessment of the College's leadership and
42 administration; and



1
2 (B) All state college and career readiness workforce
3 development training programs, including a
4 discussion of each program's offered services,
5 performance metrics, and recent outcomes, efforts
6 to coordinate with other state workforce
7 development programs, and overall alignment with
8 statewide plans; and
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10 submit a report of each performance audit, including
11 the Auditor's findings and recommendations, and any
12 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
13 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
14 Session of 2023; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Comptroller,
18 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Director of Labor and
19 Industrial Relations, Chairperson of the Workforce Development
20 Council, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University
21 of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawaii System, Vice
22 President for Community Colleges of the University of Hawaii,
23 Chancellor of Honolulu Community College, Dean of the University
24 of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources,
25 Executive Director of the Hawaii Government Employees
26 Association, State Director of United Public Workers, and
27 Chairperson of the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board.

