

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH A  
VETERINARY MEDICINE EXPANSION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
PROGRAM AT WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

1           WHEREAS, the State faces a critical shortage of  
2 veterinarians, especially in rural areas and for large animal  
3 and agricultural veterinary services; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the State's lack of a Doctor of Veterinary  
6 Medicine program forces aspiring veterinarians to seek education  
7 on the United States mainland or internationally, which can  
8 increase financial burdens and reduce the likelihood that a  
9 newly licensed veterinarian will return to Hawaii to practice;  
10 and  
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12           WHEREAS, Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology  
13 program has a strong foundation in veterinary education,  
14 providing students with hands-on experience and producing  
15 skilled veterinary technicians; and  
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17           WHEREAS, expanding Windward Community College's existing  
18 Veterinary Technology program to include a Doctor of Veterinary  
19 Medicine pathway would help address the State's veterinary  
20 workforce shortages and support local agriculture, animal  
21 welfare, and biosecurity; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the establishment of a Doctor of Veterinary  
24 Medicine program in Hawaii could include collaborations with the  
25 University of Hawaii System, private veterinary practices, and  
26 national accredited bodies to ensure academic excellence and  
27 program sustainability; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the expansion of Windward Community College's  
30 degree programs would require a feasibility study and strategic  
31 planning to assess accreditation standards and the faculty,



1 funding, and partnerships needed to support the proposed  
2 doctoral program; now, therefore,

3  
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
7 Hawaii System is requested to establish a Veterinary Medicine  
8 Expansion Working Group to explore the feasibility of developing  
9 a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Windward Community  
10 College; and

11  
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
13 to include:

- 14  
15 (1) A representative of Windward Community College's  
16 Veterinary Technology program;  
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18 (2) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of  
19 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, or the  
20 Dean's designee;  
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22 (3) The Chair of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chair's  
23 designee;  
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25 (4) Representatives from private veterinary practice,  
26 including large animal and small animal practitioners  
27 invited by the President of the University of Hawaii;  
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29 (5) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed  
30 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;  
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32 (6) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President  
33 of the Senate; and  
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35 (7) Any other stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the  
36 working group; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the working group is requested to  
39 conduct a feasibility study addressing:  
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- 1           (1) Potential partnerships with veterinary schools on the  
2           United States mainland to facilitate clinical  
3           rotations;  
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- 5           (2) The alignment of the State's education and workforce  
6           pipelines to feed into the Doctor of Veterinary  
7           Medicine program;  
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- 9           (3) The infrastructure and facilities needed to support a  
10          Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;  
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- 12          (4) The State's ability to meet accreditation requirements  
13          of the American Veterinary Medical Association;  
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- 15          (5) The faculty and curriculum needed to support the  
16          Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and to meet  
17          accreditation requirements; and  
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- 19          (6) The availability of funding, including public-private  
20          partnerships and federal grants; and  
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22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
23           to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
24           including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
25           than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
26           of 2026; and  
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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29           Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the  
30           University of Hawaii Board of Regents, the President of the  
31           University of Hawaii, Chair of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of  
32           the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and  
33           Human Resilience, Chancellor of Windward Community College, and  
34           members of Windward Community College Veterinary Studies  
35           Advisory Committee.  
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OFFERED BY: 

