

MAR 07 2025

SENATE 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
4

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
11

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
16

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
22

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
28

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,
32 funding, and partnerships needed to support the proposed
33 doctoral program; now, therefore,
34



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

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
9 to include:

- 10
- 11 (1) A representative of Windward Community College's
12 Veterinary Technology program;
13
 - 14 (2) The Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
15 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, or the
16 Dean's designee;
17
 - 18 (3) The Chair of the Board of Agriculture, or the Chair's
19 designee;
20
 - 21 (4) Representatives from private veterinary practice,
22 including large animal and small animal practitioners
23 invited by the President of the University of Hawaii;
24
 - 25 (5) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed
26 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
27
 - 28 (6) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President
29 of the Senate; and
30
 - 31 (7) Any other stakeholders, as deemed necessary by the
32 working group; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the working group is requested to
35 conduct a feasibility study addressing:
36

- 37 (1) Potential partnerships with veterinary schools on the
38 United States mainland to facilitate clinical
39 rotations;
40



- 1 (2) The alignment of the State's education and workforce
- 2 pipelines to feed into the Doctor of Veterinary
- 3 Medicine program;
- 4
- 5 (3) The infrastructure and facilities needed to support a
- 6 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program;
- 7
- 8 (4) The State's ability to meet accreditation requirements
- 9 of the American Veterinary Medical Association;
- 10
- 11 (5) The faculty and curriculum needed to support the
- 12 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and to meet
- 13 accreditation requirements; and
- 14
- 15 (6) The availability of funding, including public-private
- 16 partnerships and federal grants; and
- 17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested

19 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,

20 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later

21 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session

22 of 2026; and

23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

25 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the University of

26 Hawaii Board of Regents, the President of the University of

27 Hawaii, Chair of the Board of Agriculture, Dean of the

28 University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human

29 Resilience, Chancellor of Windward Community College, and

30 members of Windward Community College Veterinary Studies

31 Advisory Committee.

32

33

34 OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]

