
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE WEST HAWAII REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the West Hawaii
2 community is in need of a new hospital in North Kona. The
3 legislature further finds that, pursuant to a needs assessment
4 that was completed in 2024, "a growing community such as the one
5 in [the North Kona region] can support a thriving hospital,
6 expanded services, and integrated medical group" and that
7 establishing a new hospital would provide more convenient access
8 to critical services and shorten travel times, resulting in
9 improved health outcomes for the region.

10 The legislature additionally finds that a new hospital in
11 North Kona will help with recruiting physicians to the island of
12 Hawaii, which will help address the island's ongoing struggles
13 with physician shortages. The new hospital will also create new
14 jobs and opportunities for the growing West Hawaii region.

15 The legislature also finds that The Queen's Health Systems
16 and the West Hawaii region of the Hawaii health systems
17 corporation recently signed a memorandum of understanding to



1 develop an outpatient care center in Kona, which will include
2 office space and clinical services. Once this outpatient care
3 center is completed, with state funding, The Queen's Health
4 Systems has committed to building a new adjacent hospital.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
6 funds for the plans, design, and construction of a new
7 outpatient care center in North Kona.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000,000 or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
11 the planning, design, site work, and construction of a new
12 outpatient care center in North Kona.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii health
14 systems corporation for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

16
INTRODUCED BY: *Nicole E. Lowe*

JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 1978

Report Title:

West Hawaii Regional Health Care System; North Kona; Outpatient Care Center; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the planning, design, site work, and construction of a new outpatient care center in North Kona.

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