
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION'S EAST HAWAII REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A RURAL HEALTH CLINIC OR COMPARABLE RURAL HEALTH ACCESS POINT TO SERVE THE VOLCANO COMMUNITY.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation's East
2 Hawai'i Regional Health Care System (HHSC East Hawai'i Region)
3 operates the Hilo Medical Center, Ka'u Hospital and its Rural
4 Health Clinic, Hale Ho'ola Hamakua, and a network of East Hawai'i
5 Health Clinics that together provide essential medical services
6 to communities across East Hawai'i; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the long-standing designation of the Ka'u Hospital
9 as a Critical Access Hospital and the establishment of its
10 Medicare-certified Rural Health Clinic have enabled the HHSC
11 East Hawai'i Region to expand primary-care access to rural
12 communities while strengthening the region's financial stability
13 and provider recruitment capacity; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the community of Volcano, located between the
16 districts of Puna and Ka'u, remains one of the largest rural
17 population centers on Hawai'i Island that is without direct
18 access to primary-care services, emergency stabilization
19 capacity, or a locally-based medical provider; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the community of Volcano's geographic isolation,
22 distance from Hilo and Ka'u hospitals, increased wildfire risks,
23 volcanic-related hazards, and limited transportation options
24 create chronic barriers to timely health care access for
25 residents; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the Volcano Community Association (VCA) recently
28 completed a Medical and Health Care Services Needs Assessment,
29 which identified the development of a clinic offering primary
30 and other health care services as a long-term need for the area



1 due to its aging population, rural character, and anticipated
2 population growth; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the VCA's Medical and Health Care Services Needs
5 Assessment further identified the recruitment of a part-time
6 primary care provider who could establish medical services in
7 the Volcano community at least two days per week as a short-term
8 goal; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the VCA has expressed strong willingness to
11 partner with the HHSC East Hawai'i Region to identify potential
12 clinic sites, coordinate community outreach, support provider
13 recruitment, and assist with long-term planning efforts; and

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15 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Volcano Health Collaborative is
16 to improve the health status of residents of the community of
17 Volcano and its neighboring communities by increasing the
18 accessibility of quality, affordable medical and associated
19 health care; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Volcano Village and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
22 receive millions of visitors annually, dramatically increasing
23 the volume of people passing through the area and creating a
24 heightened need for accessible medical services to respond to
25 visitor injuries, respiratory distress, and other urgent needs
26 arising from outdoor and volcanic-environment exposure; and

27
28 WHEREAS, emergency medical services for the Volcano area
29 are currently located within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and
30 operated out of Kilauea Military Camp, serving both residents
31 and the substantial visitor population, further underscoring the
32 need for a dedicated community-based health care access point in
33 the Volcano community; and

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35 WHEREAS, Hawai'i Island Community Health Center is a
36 Federally Qualified Health Center serving underserved population
37 on Hawai'i Island, interested in the establishment of a Rural
38 Health Clinic in the Volcano community and has been involved in
39 ongoing discussions; and

40
41 WHEREAS, establishing a Rural Health Clinic in the Volcano
42 community, whether permanent, mobile, or hybrid, would



1 strengthen the overall East Hawai'i rural health network, support
2 the Ka'u Hospital in its role as a Critical Access Hospital
3 serving remote communities, and improve health outcomes for both
4 residents and visitors; now, therefore,

5
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Hawai'i Health Systems
9 Corporation's East Hawai'i Regional Health Care System (HHSC East
10 Hawai'i Region) is requested to conduct a feasibility study on
11 establishing a Rural Health Clinic or comparable rural health
12 access point to serve the Volcano community; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HHSC East Hawai'i Region is
15 requested to examine the following in its feasibility study:
16

- 17 (1) Potential sites within Volcano Village or adjacent
18 areas for a clinic or satellite office;
19
- 20 (2) Operational models, including part-time provider
21 service, mobile-clinic deployment, telehealth
22 integration, or co-location with existing community
23 facilities;
24
- 25 (3) Staffing requirements, including short-term options
26 for providing primary-care services at least two days
27 per week;
28
- 29 (4) Start-up and ongoing costs, including eligibility for
30 rural health clinic reimbursement and other federal
31 rural-access funding;
32
- 33 (5) Opportunities for partnership with the Volcano
34 Community Association, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park,
35 local nonprofits, organizations, and educational or
36 medical-training institutions; and
37
- 38 (6) Potential benefits to emergency response, chronic
39 disease management, and visitor-safety services; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HHSC East Hawai'i Region is
2 requested to partner with the Hawai'i Island Community Health
3 Center for the duration of the feasibility study to determine
4 the most appropriate operator of the Rural Health Clinic or
5 comparable rural health access point; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HHSC East Hawai'i Region is
8 requested to submit the completed feasibility study; its
9 findings and recommendations, including any propose legislation;
10 and an implementation timeline to the Legislature no later than
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
12 2027; and

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Chief
16 Executive Officer of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation,
17 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawai'i Health Systems
18 Corporation's East Hawai'i Regional Health Care System,
19 Superintendent of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, President of
20 the Volcano Community Association, President of the Volcano
21 Health Collaborative, and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawai'i
22 Island Community Health Center.

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25 OFFERED BY:



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