
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING MAUI HEALTH SYSTEM TO COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO
ESTABLISH A FULL-TIME MEDICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM ON THE
ISLAND OF MAUI.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is experiencing a significant shortage of
2 primary care physicians and specialists; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State's physician shortage disproportionately
5 impacts rural areas and neighbor islands, including the island
6 of Maui; and
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8 WHEREAS, the physician shortage on Maui was exacerbated by
9 the 2023 Maui wildfires, which destroyed several West Maui
10 health care facilities and forced some physicians and medical
11 workers to relocate; and
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13 WHEREAS, the 2025 Hawaii Physician Workforce Report
14 indicates that the County of Maui faces a critical overall
15 physician shortage of forty-one percent, representing a deficit
16 of approximately one hundred seventy-nine full-time equivalent
17 physicians; and
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19 WHEREAS, the report further highlights that the County of
20 Maui suffers from a severe shortage in primary care, with a
21 thirty-five percent deficit; and
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23 WHEREAS, the County of Maui deficit is significantly higher
24 than the fourteen percent primary care shortage found in the
25 County of Hawaii, which has been trending down since the
26 establishment of the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency
27 Program in 2014, highlighting an urgent need for Maui to
28 establish a primary care residency program in family medicine
29 and internal medicine; and
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1 WHEREAS, data from the 2025 report indicates that specific
2 specialties on Maui are near collapse, including a supply of
3 only 0.1 full-time equivalent geriatric medicine physicians
4 against a demand for 6.1 full-time equivalents, leaving the
5 island's aging population severely underserved; and

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7 WHEREAS, a full-time medical residency program is not
8 currently available on Maui; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has recently been awarded
11 \$188,892,440 in federal funding for the first year of the
12 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' five-year Rural
13 Health Transformation Program to implement the Hawaii Rural
14 Health Transformation Plan; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan
17 explicitly includes dedicated funding and initiatives designed
18 to expand rural training sites, support residencies, and recruit
19 and retain health care professionals in under-resourced
20 neighborhoods; and

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22 WHEREAS, the availability of these specific Rural Health
23 Transformation Program funds provides an immediate and critical
24 financial pathway to support the high initial costs of
25 establishing a medical residency program on Maui; and

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27 WHEREAS, securing these funds requires alignment with the
28 State's strategic goals and coordination with the oversight team
29 managing the implementation of the Hawaii Rural Health
30 Transformation Plan; and

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32 WHEREAS, Maui Health System is one of the largest health
33 care providers on the island of Maui, including emergency and
34 specialist care; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that Maui Health System is urged
39 to collaborate with the administrators of the Hawaii Rural
40 Health Transformation Plan, the John A. Burns School of
41 Medicine, and other stakeholders to establish a full-time
42 medical residency program on the island of Maui; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health System is
3 specifically urged to leverage the Hawaii Rural Health
4 Transformation Plan as a primary funding vehicle, while
5 simultaneously identifying and securing any and all other
6 available resources—including federal grants, state
7 appropriations, philanthropic contributions, and private
8 partnerships—to ensure the immediate establishment and long-term
9 sustainability of this residency program; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that collaborators are requested to
12 include representatives from the island's federally qualified
13 health centers, Hana Health and Malama I Ke Ola Health Center;
14 and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health System is urged to
17 submit a report of its findings and recommendations on
18 establishing the medical residency program, including the status
19 of efforts to access Rural Health Transformation Program funds
20 and other capital resources, to the Legislature no later than
21 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
22 2027; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
26 the County of Maui, Dean of the John A. Burns School of
27 Medicine, Chair of the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan
28 Oversight Team, Chief Executive Officer of Maui Health System,
29 Executive Director of Hana Health, and Chief Executive Officer
30 of Malama I Ke Ola Health Center.

