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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING MAUI HEALTH 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 healthcare 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 Maui County faces a critical overall physician  
15 shortage of forty-one percent, representing a deficit of  
16 approximately one hundred seventy-nine full-time equivalent  
17 physicians; and  
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19           WHEREAS, the report further highlights that County of Maui  
20 suffers from a severe shortage in primary care, with a thirty-  
21 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 Hawaii  
25 County, which has been trending down since the establishment of  
26 the Hawaii Island Family Residency Program in 2014, highlighting  
27 an urgent need for Maui to establish a primary care residency  
28 program in family medicine and internal medicine; and  
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30           WHEREAS, data from the 2025 report indicates that specific  
31 specialties on Maui are near collapse, including a supply of  
32 only 0.1 full-time equivalent geriatric medicine physicians  
33 against a demand for 6.1 full-time equivalents, leaving the  
34 island's aging population severely underserved; and  
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1 WHEREAS, a full-time medical residency program is not  
2 currently available on Maui; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has recently been awarded  
5 \$188,892,440 in federal funding for the first year of the Rural  
6 Health Transformation Program to implement the Hawaii Rural  
7 Health Transformation Plan; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan  
10 explicitly includes dedicated funding and initiatives designed  
11 to expand rural training sites, support residencies, and recruit  
12 and retain healthcare professionals in under-resourced  
13 neighborhoods; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the availability of these specific Rural Health  
16 Transformation Program funds provides an immediate and critical  
17 financial pathway to support the high initial costs of  
18 establishing a medical residency program on Maui; and  
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20 WHEREAS, securing these funds requires alignment with the  
21 State's strategic goals and coordination with the oversight team  
22 managing the implementation of the Hawaii Rural Health  
23 Transformation Plan; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Maui Health is one of the island's largest health  
26 care providers, including emergency and specialist care; now,  
27 therefore,  
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
31 of 2026, that Maui Health is urged to collaborate with the  
32 administrators of the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan,  
33 the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and other stakeholders to  
34 establish a full-time medical residency program on the island of  
35 Maui; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health is specifically  
38 urged to leverage the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan as  
39 a primary funding vehicle, while simultaneously identifying and  
40 securing any and all other available resources—including federal  
41 grants, state appropriations, philanthropic contributions, and



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1 private partnerships—to ensure the immediate establishment and  
2 long-term sustainability of this residency program; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that collaborators are requested to  
5 include representatives from the island's federally qualified  
6 health centers, Hana Health and Malama I Ke Ola Health Center;  
7 and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health is urged to submit  
10 a report of its findings and recommendations on establishing the  
11 medical residency program, including the status of efforts to  
12 access Rural Health Transformation Program funds and other  
13 capital resources, to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
14 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the County  
18 of Maui, Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Chair of  
19 the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan Oversight Team,  
20 Chief Executive Officer of Maui Health, Executive Director of  
21 Hana Health, and Chief Executive Officer of Malama I Ke Ola  
22 Health Center.  
23  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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