
SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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



1 and other health care services as a long-term need for the area
2 due to its aging population, rural character, and anticipated
3 population growth; and
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5 WHEREAS, the VCA's Medical and Health Care Services Needs
6 Assessment further identified the recruitment of a part-time
7 primary care provider who could establish medical services in
8 the Volcano community at least two days per week as a short-term
9 goal; and
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11 WHEREAS, the VCA has expressed strong willingness to
12 partner with the HHSC East Hawai'i Region to identify potential
13 clinic sites, coordinate community outreach, support provider
14 recruitment, and assist with long-term planning efforts; and
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16 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Volcano Health Collaborative is
17 to improve the health status of residents of the community of
18 Volcano and its neighboring communities by increasing the
19 accessibility of quality, affordable medical and associated
20 health care; and
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22 WHEREAS, Volcano Village and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
23 receive millions of visitors annually, dramatically increasing
24 the volume of people passing through the area and creating a
25 heightened need for accessible medical services to respond to
26 visitor injuries, respiratory distress, and other urgent needs
27 arising from outdoor and volcanic-environment exposure; and
28

29 WHEREAS, emergency medical services for the Volcano area
30 are currently located within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and
31 operated out of Kilauea Military Camp, serving both residents
32 and the substantial visitor population, further underscoring the
33 need for a dedicated community-based health care access point in
34 the Volcano community; and
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36 WHEREAS, establishing a Rural Health Clinic in the Volcano
37 community, whether permanent, mobile, or hybrid, would
38 strengthen the overall East Hawai'i rural health network, support
39 the Ka'ū Hospital in its role as a Critical Access Hospital
40 serving remote communities, and improve health outcomes for both
41 residents and visitors; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
 2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
 3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawai'i Health
 4 Systems Corporation's East Hawai'i Regional Health Care System is
 5 requested to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a Rural
 6 Health Clinic or comparable rural health access point to serve
 7 the Volcano community; and

8
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HHSC East Hawai'i Region is
 10 requested to examine the following in its feasibility study:

- 11 (1) Potential sites within Volcano Village or adjacent
 12 areas for a clinic or satellite office;
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- 14 (2) Operational models, including part-time provider
 15 service, mobile-clinic deployment, telehealth
 16 integration, or co-location with existing community
 17 facilities;
 18
- 19 (3) Staffing requirements, including short-term options
 20 for providing primary-care services at least two days
 21 per week;
 22
- 23 (4) Start-up and ongoing costs, including eligibility for
 24 rural health clinic reimbursement and other federal
 25 rural-access funding;
 26
- 27 (5) Opportunities for partnership with the Volcano
 28 Community Association, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park,
 29 local nonprofits, organizations, and educational or
 30 medical-training institutions; and
 31
- 32 (6) Potential benefits to emergency response, chronic
 33 disease management, and visitor-safety services; and
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35
 36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HHSC East Hawai'i Region is
 37 requested to submit the completed feasibility study; its
 38 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 39 legislation; and an implementation timeline to the Legislature
 40 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 41 Session of 2027; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Chief
3 Executive Officer of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation,
4 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawai'i Health Systems
5 Corporation's East Hawai'i Regional Health Care System,
6 Superintendent of the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, President
7 of the Volcano Community Association, and President of the
8 Volcano Health Collaborative.

