

MAR 05 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT 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



1 against a demand for 6.1 full-time equivalents, leaving the
2 island's aging population severely underserved; and

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

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7 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has recently been awarded
8 \$188,892,440 in federal funding for the first year of the Rural
9 Health Transformation Program to implement the Hawaii Rural
10 Health Transformation Plan; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan
13 explicitly includes dedicated funding and initiatives designed
14 to expand rural training sites, support residencies, and recruit
15 and retain healthcare professionals in under-resourced
16 neighborhoods; and

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

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23 WHEREAS, securing these funds requires alignment with the
24 State's strategic goals and coordination with the oversight team
25 managing the implementation of the Hawaii Rural Health
26 Transformation Plan; and

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28 WHEREAS, Maui Health is one of the island's largest health
29 care providers, including emergency and specialist care; now,
30 therefore,

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

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health is specifically
41 urged to leverage the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan as
42 a primary funding vehicle, while simultaneously identifying and



1 securing any and all other available resources—including federal
2 grants, state appropriations, philanthropic contributions, and
3 private partnerships—to ensure the immediate establishment and
4 long-term sustainability of this residency program; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that collaborators are requested to
7 include representatives from the island's federally qualified
8 health centers, Hana Health and Malama I Ke Ola Health Center;
9 and

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

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of
20 the County of Maui, Dean of the John A. Burns School of
21 Medicine, Chair of the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan
22 Oversight Team, Chief Executive Officer of Maui Health,
23 Executive Director of Hana Health, and Chief Executive Officer
24 of Malama I Ke Ola Health Center.

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27 OFFERED BY:



