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# SENATE 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 in the County of Maui are near collapse, including a  
3 supply of only 0.1 full-time equivalent geriatric medicine  
4 physicians against a demand for 6.1 full-time equivalents,  
5 leaving the island's aging population severely underserved; and  
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7 WHEREAS, a full-time medical residency program is not  
8 currently available in the County of Maui; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the State has recently been awarded \$188,892,440  
11 in federal funding for the first year of the Centers for  
12 Medicare and Medicaid Services' five-year Rural Health  
13 Transformation Program to implement the Hawaii Rural Health  
14 Transformation Plan; and  
15

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 in the County of Maui;  
26 and  
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28 WHEREAS, securing these funds requires alignment with the  
29 State's strategic goals and coordination with the oversight team  
30 managing the implementation of the Hawaii Rural Health  
31 Transformation Plan; and  
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33 WHEREAS, Maui Health System is one of the largest health  
34 care providers on the island of Maui, including emergency and  
35 specialist care; now, therefore,  
36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
39 House of Representatives concurring, that Maui Health System is  
40 urged to collaborate with the administrators of the Hawaii Rural  
41 Health Transformation Plan, John A. Burns School of Medicine,



1 and other stakeholders to establish a full-time medical  
2 residency program on the island of Maui; and

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

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

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health System is urged to  
19 submit a report of its findings and recommendations on  
20 establishing the medical residency program, including the status  
21 of efforts to access Rural Health Transformation Program funds  
22 and other capital resources, to the Legislature no later than  
23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
24 2027; and

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

