

MAR 05 2026

SENATE 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 Senate of the Thirty-third
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
31 that Maui Health is urged to collaborate with the administrators
32 of the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan, the John A.
33 Burns School of Medicine, and other stakeholders to establish a
34 full-time medical residency program on the island of Maui; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health is specifically
37 urged to leverage the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan as
38 a primary funding vehicle, while simultaneously identifying and
39 securing any and all other available resources—including federal
40 grants, state appropriations, philanthropic contributions, and
41 private partnerships—to ensure the immediate establishment and
42 long-term sustainability of this residency program; and



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

