
SENATE 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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31 WHEREAS, data from the 2025 report indicates that specific
32 specialties in the County of Maui are near collapse, including a
33 supply of only 0.1 full-time equivalent geriatric medicine



1 physicians against a demand for 6.1 full-time equivalents,
2 leaving the island's aging population severely underserved; and
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4 WHEREAS, a full-time medical residency program is not
5 currently available in the County of Maui; and
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7 WHEREAS, the State has recently been awarded \$188,892,440
8 in federal funding for the first year of the Centers for
9 Medicare and Medicaid Services' five-year Rural Health
10 Transformation Program to implement the Hawaii Rural Health
11 Transformation Plan; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan
14 explicitly includes dedicated funding and initiatives designed
15 to expand rural training sites, support residencies, and recruit
16 and retain health care professionals in under-resourced
17 neighborhoods; and
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19 WHEREAS, the availability of these specific Rural Health
20 Transformation Program funds provides an immediate and critical
21 financial pathway to support the high initial costs of
22 establishing a medical residency program in the County of Maui;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, securing these funds requires alignment with the
26 State's strategic goals and coordination with the oversight team
27 managing the implementation of the Hawaii Rural Health
28 Transformation Plan; and
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30 WHEREAS, Maui Health System is one of the largest health
31 care providers on the island of Maui, including emergency and
32 specialist care; now, therefore,
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
36 that Maui Health System is urged to collaborate with the
37 administrators of the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan,
38 John A. Burns School of Medicine, and other stakeholders to
39 establish a full-time medical residency program on the island of
40 Maui; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health System is
2 specifically urged to leverage the Hawaii Rural Health
3 Transformation Plan as a primary funding vehicle, while
4 simultaneously identifying and securing any and all other
5 available resources—including federal grants, state
6 appropriations, philanthropic contributions, and private
7 partnerships—to ensure the immediate establishment and long-term
8 sustainability of this residency program; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that collaborators are requested to
11 include representatives from the island's federally qualified
12 health centers, Hana Health and Malama I Ke Ola Health Center;
13 and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Maui Health System is urged to
16 submit a report of its findings and recommendations on
17 establishing the medical residency program, including the status
18 of efforts to access Rural Health Transformation Program funds
19 and other capital resources, to the Legislature no later than
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
21 2027; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Mayor of the County
25 of Maui, Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Chair of
26 the Hawaii Rural Health Transformation Plan Oversight Team,
27 Chief Executive Officer of Maui Health System\$, Executive
28 Director of Hana Health, and Chief Executive Officer of Malama I
29 Ke Ola Health Center.

