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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO BEGIN REBUILDING THE SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH BY 2012.

1           WHEREAS, over three thousand five hundred graduates of the  
2 University of Hawaii School of Public Health programs in  
3 epidemiology, environmental health, nutrition, maternal and  
4 child health, gerontology, international health, health  
5 administration, and community health development and education  
6 now play vital roles in protecting the health of Hawaii's  
7 population and the health of those in the Asia, Pacific, and  
8 United States regions; and  
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10           WHEREAS, over the decades, the health workforce of Hawaii  
11 and the Asia-Pacific region has consisted largely of the  
12 graduates of former University of Hawaii School of Public  
13 Health, which once educated hundreds of public health  
14 professionals a year, as the second largest graduate program in  
15 the University of Hawaii system; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in 1999, the University of Hawaii School of Public  
18 Health lost its accreditation; and  
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20           WHEREAS, in 2000, the University of Hawaii School of Public  
21 Health was incorporated into the John A. Burns School of  
22 Medicine as the Office of Public Health Studies; and  
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24           WHEREAS, upon closure of the School of Public Health, the  
25 University of Hawaii administration proposed, and the Board of  
26 Regents approved, a plan to rebuild it within five years; and  
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28           WHEREAS, the medical school and the Department of Health  
29 have made significant strides towards the rebuilding of public  
30 health education, research, and training since the closure of  
31 the School of Public Health, most significantly in gaining



1 recent seven-year full accreditation from the Council on  
2 Education in Public Health for a program in public health; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department recently completed a school of  
5 public health business plan, as well as increased the public  
6 health faculty size from fourteen to twenty; and

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8 WHEREAS, a new, independent school of public health could  
9 become a reality within three to five years, pending the  
10 availability of necessary funding resources; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is at a crossroads for emerging public  
13 health issues, as there is both significant public health needs  
14 as well as interest by prospective students to sustain a new  
15 school; and

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17 WHEREAS, a new school of public health must provide  
18 distance training to prospective students living in all  
19 geographic areas of Hawaii; and

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21 WHEREAS, studies have shown that a substantial percentage  
22 of the public health workforce, especially those in leadership  
23 and mid-level management positions, has retired or is on the  
24 verge of exiting the workforce to retire; and

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26 WHEREAS, currently, Hawaii is facing a health workforce  
27 crisis that will be even more critical if public health training  
28 and education is not reinstated; and

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30 WHEREAS, the potential for obtaining research funds has  
31 grown tremendously over the last few years, and a new school of  
32 public health would provide more flexibility to respond to  
33 Hawaii's public health needs including issues relating to a  
34 pandemic influenza, substance use, disparities in health status,  
35 environmental health problems, diabetes, elder health, injury  
36 prevention, childhood obesity, bioterrorism, SARS, and other  
37 local and global health challenges; and

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39 WHEREAS, without a fully accredited school of public  
40 health, Hawaii is ineligible to receive maximum federal research  
41 money; and

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43 WHEREAS, other states and universities are considering  
44 increasing public health training and research in Hawaii and the



