
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO PROVIDE ADMISSION PREFERENCE TO STUDENTS THAT MIRRORS THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS OF THE STATE TO ADDRESS THE SHORTAGE OF PHYSICIANS ON OUR NEIGHBOR ISLANDS.

1 WHEREAS, the relative shortage of primary care physicians
2 in rural areas of Hawaii is one of our state's most persistent
3 health care trends; and
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5 WHEREAS, residents of rural areas, many times, are older,
6 sicker, poorer, and less likely to be insured; and
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8 WHEREAS, it is not just a matter of statistical analysis to
9 attract and retain physicians for service in rural areas, it
10 encompasses social, cultural, and economic details to make a
11 good match; and
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13 WHEREAS, young people from a rural area who enter medical
14 school may be predisposed to return home to practice when given
15 proper encouragement and support to do so; and
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17 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii's (UH) John A. Burns
18 School of Medicine's (JABSOM) mission is to teach and train high
19 quality physicians, biomedical students, and allied health
20 professionals to practice in Hawaii and the rest of the Pacific,
21 and to conduct both clinical and basic research in areas of
22 specific interest to our community and region; and
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24 WHEREAS, JABSOM has the most culturally and ethnically
25 diverse student body in the country mirroring the rich diversity
26 of the state's population; and



1 WHEREAS, a study published by the American Journal of
 2 Public Health 2004 entitled "Retention of Primary Care
 3 Physicians in Rural Health Professional Shortage Areas" found
 4 that physicians working in rural areas in a state where the
 5 physician grew up or trained correlated with longer retention in
 6 those areas; now, therefore,

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 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 9 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 10 Session of 2008, that JABSOM is requested to provide admission
 11 preference to students that mirrors the demographics of rural
 12 health professional shortage areas of the state to address the
 13 shortage of physicians on our neighbor islands; and

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 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 16 Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of JABSOM, UH Board of
 17 Regents, Director of Health, and President and Chief Executive
 18 Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: John M. ...
John M. ...
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MAR 11 2008