



RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SEEK EMERGENCY FUNDING TO ENSURE THAT KAHUKU HOSPITAL REMAINS OPEN BEYOND DECEMBER 31, 2006.

WHEREAS, Kahuku Hospital opened in 1928 as a plantation hospital to serve the needs of sugar workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, Kahuku Hospital today serves rural North Shore communities from Kualoa to Waimea Bay, comprising a population of over 27,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Kahuku Hospital provides emergency room care twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to residents and visitors regardless of the ability to pay; and is the only hospital within an hour's drive from anywhere in this widespread North Shore area; and

WHEREAS, in addition to emergency room services, Kahuku Hospital also provides acute care, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics, newborn, ancillary care, skilled nursing, and health education services to individuals and families on the North Shore; and

WHEREAS, Kahuku Hospital has recently announced that it will close its doors and file for bankruptcy on December 31, 2006 because of rising operating costs, revenue shortfalls, and a \$3 million debt; and

WHEREAS, news of the pending closure of Kahuku Hospital has shocked health care advocates and left the North Shore community reeling because the loss of Kahuku Hospital will, among other things, mean that:

- Many North Shore residents will face drives of up to 22 miles to Wahiawa General Hospital or 32 miles to Castle Medical Center to receive emergency care, both along roads that have no alternative access and are subject to closure by traffic accidents and flooding;
- Ambulance time in either direction will be an hour or more, at a time when military medevac services have been severely curtailed; and
- The community's largest employer will terminate 110 doctors, nurses, and other health care workers and employees;

and



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WHEREAS, support for Kahuku Hospital continues to be strong, as evidenced by the fact that:

- The State Department of Health's director pushed for additional state funding for Kahuku Hospital at this year's Legislature, acknowledging recently that "I don't want that side of the island to go dark...once you turn off the lights in a hospital, it's really hard to turn it on again";
- The new owner of the land under the Kahuku Hospital, developer Continental Pacific, noting that the announced closure of the hospital caught it off guard, has proposed keeping emergency operations going at the closed hospital through a partnership with an existing health care center; and
- The federal government has designated the Kahuku Hospital a critical access hospital;

and

WHEREAS, there is consensus among health care advocates, government leaders, and the North Shore community that the need for Kahuku Hospital is undeniable and that the loss of the hospital would severely impact health care on the North Shore; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Governor and Hawaii's congressional delegation to seek emergency funding to ensure that Kahuku Hospital remains open beyond December 31, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the Governor to consider using surplus state general funds, Department of Health funds, or unused special funds for this purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges Hawaii's congressional delegation to explore the possibilities of using Medicare funds via the Federal Critical Access Hospital program for both emergency and permanent funding for Kahuku Hospital; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, and the CEO of Kahuku Hospital.

INTRODUCED BY
[Handwritten Signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

DEC 7 2006
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers