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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a growing  
2 shortage of health care professionals in Hawaii, especially on  
3 the neighbor islands and in rural areas. The state's rapidly  
4 aging population will significantly increase the demand for  
5 health care services and long-term care. As the general  
6 population ages, so does the health care workforce, exacerbating  
7 the growing shortage of providers. In addition, low  
8 reimbursement rates, issues related to living and working in  
9 remote communities, challenging working conditions, and the cost  
10 of medical malpractice insurance continue to create barriers to  
11 recruitment and retention of health care providers, especially  
12 in certain specialty areas. Even if people have health  
13 insurance, they are often unable to access appropriate care. A  
14 fully-afed, well-trained health care workforce is a key  
15 component in providing quality health care to all Hawaii  
16 residents; therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
17 funds to develop and maintain a statewide comprehensive health  
18 care workforce map and database to:



- 1           (1) Compile and analyze existing data on the supply and
- 2           distribution of all health care practitioners,
- 3           technicians, and other health care workers by
- 4           specialty and practice location;
- 5           (2) Develop a plan to collect and systematically update
- 6           data; and
- 7           (3) Project and develop a plan to meet future health
- 8           workforce needs.

9           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
11 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the state  
12 health planning and development agency to develop and maintain a  
13 statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database.

14           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
15 health for the purposes of this Act.

16           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



HB 2592 HD 1

**Report Title:**

Health Care Workforce Map; SHPDA; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the state health planning and development agency to develop and maintain a statewide health care workforce map and database. (HB2592 HD1)

HB2592 HD1 HMS 2006-1994

