
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DENTISTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a severe
2 shortage of dental services in the underserved communities of
3 Hawaii, particularly for Med-QUEST and uninsured patients. This
4 growing crisis is due to geographic isolation, lack of
5 educational opportunities for dentists and their families, and
6 salaries that are up to twenty per cent lower than on the
7 mainland.

8 The legislature finds that to maximize the availability of
9 quality dental care in underserved communities, a dental care
10 student loan repayment program should be established to enable
11 dentists who are already licensed and experienced to fill the
12 immediate need for dental services while providing incentives
13 for students to become dentists and serve in needy communities.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish a dental care
15 student loan repayment program to provide dental student loan
16 repayments for persons who agree to provide dental services in
17 underserved communities to medicaid and uninsured patients.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§321- Dental care student loan repayment program. (a)

5 There is established within the department a dental care student
6 loan repayment program to be administered by the director of
7 health. The program shall provide student loan repayment in
8 exchange for service as a dentist in an underserved community in
9 Hawaii.

10 (b) Under the dental care student loan repayment program,
11 the department may award to a person one year of educational
12 loan repayment in exchange for every two years that the person
13 agrees to:

14 (1) Be licensed under chapter 448; and

15 (2) Practice dentistry in a state-designated dental health
16 professional shortage area:

17 (A) At a federally qualified health center; or

18 (B) While employed by or as the owner of a dental
19 practice:

20 (i) That is open to new clients enrolled in the
21 Hawaii medicaid program;



1 (ii) That offers dental services to the uninsured
2 on a sliding fee scale or on a pro bono
3 basis; and

4 (iii) In which forty per cent of the clients
5 served are medicaid eligible or uninsured.

6 The department may award an applicant a maximum of three years
7 of loan repayment.

8 (c) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with
9 chapter 91 to implement this section, including rules addressing
10 the following:

11 (1) Qualifications of applicants;

12 (2) Application procedures;

13 (3) The amount of student loan repayments available each
14 year;

15 (4) Criteria for fulfilling an applicant's obligation for
16 providing dental care in exchange for student loan
17 repayment;

18 (5) The limitation, suspension, or revocation of
19 repayments; and

20 (6) Procedures and remedies for any violation of the loan
21 agreement or rule adopted pursuant to this section.



1 (d) For the purposes of this section and section 321- ,
2 "department" means department of health.

3 **§321- Dental care student loan repayment program special**
4 **fund.** (a) There is established a dental care student loan
5 repayment program special fund, to be administered by the
6 department to repay student loans under the dental care student
7 loan repayment program and for any and all other purposes
8 consistent with section 321- .

9 (b) The fund shall consist of:

- 10 (1) Moneys appropriated by the legislature;
- 11 (2) Interest on moneys in the fund; and
- 12 (3) Any other moneys contributed or transferred to the
13 fund."

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to be
17 deposited into the dental care student loan repayment program
18 special fund for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the dental care
20 student loan repayment program special fund the sum of \$ or
21 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007
22 for the dental care student loan repayment program.

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

3 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



SB 2729 SD1

HD1

Report Title:

Dentists; Student Loan Repayment Program; Incentive

Description:

Establishes a dental care student loan repayment program as an incentive for dentists to provide dental services to underserved communities and accept Med-QUEST and uninsured patients.

(SB2729 HD1)

