

JAN 25 2006

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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 healthcare 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.

13           Even if people have health insurance, they are often unable  
14 to access appropriate care. A fully staffed, well-trained  
15 health care workforce is a key component in providing quality  
16 healthcare to all Hawaii residents.



1           The purpose of this Act is to develop and maintain a  
2 statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database  
3 to:

4           (1) Compile and analyze existing data on the supply and  
5 distribution of all health care practitioners,  
6 technicians, and other health care workers by  
7 specialty and practice location;

8           (2) Develop a plan to collect and systematically update  
9 data; and

10          (3) Project and develop a plan to meet future health care  
11 workforce needs.

12          SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for the  
15 state health planning and development agency to develop and  
16 maintain a statewide comprehensive health care work force map  
17 and database.

18          SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
19 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Rosalyn J. Baker

**Report Title:**

Health Care Workforce; Map; Database; Supply and Distribution

**Description:**

Establishes a statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database to compile and analyze data on the supply, demand, and distribution of all health care workers by specialty and practice location.

