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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 the state's rapidly  
2 aging population will significantly increase the demand for  
3 health care services and long-term care. Regrettably, there is  
4 a growing shortage of health care professionals in Hawaii,  
5 especially on the neighbor islands and in rural areas. This  
6 problem is further aggravated by the fact that as we lose  
7 essential health care providers, our current health care  
8 workforce continues to age, exacerbating the worsening shortage  
9 of providers. Low reimbursement rates, issues related to living  
10 and working in remote communities, challenging working  
11 conditions, and the cost of medical malpractice insurance also  
12 continue to create barriers to recruitment and retention of  
13 health care providers, especially in certain specialty areas.

14           While we struggle to provide adequate health insurance for  
15 all Hawaii residents, the health care workforce shortage will  
16 continue to leave many without access to appropriate care. A  
17 fully staffed, well-trained health care workforce is a key



1 component in providing quality health care to all Hawaii  
2 residents.

3 The purpose of this Act is to develop and maintain a secure  
4 statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database.

5 SECTION 2. The department of health shall:

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

10 (2) Develop a plan to collect and systematically update  
11 data;

12 (3) Develop a plan to project and meet future health care  
13 workforce needs;

14 (4) Develop a plan to address and reduce any identified  
15 shortages of health care workers; and

16 (5) Ensure that data collected is accurate and secure and  
17 that data specific to any practitioner is disclosed  
18 only with the express written consent of the  
19 practitioner.

20 No later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
21 regular session of 2008, the department of health shall  
22 submit its findings to the legislature, including proposed



1 legislation, on its efforts to develop and maintain a statewide  
2 comprehensive health care workforce map and database.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2008-2009 for the department of health to develop and maintain a  
8 statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
10 of health for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Health Care Workforce Database; Supply, Demand, and Distribution

**Description:**

Establishes a statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database on supply, demand, and distribution, by specialty and practice location. Appropriation. (HB212, HD2)

