
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. The
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 growing shortage of
9 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 of Hawaii's citizens, the health care workforce shortage
16 will continue to leave many without access to appropriate care.
17 A 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 to identify health care workforce shortages through 2020, and to
6 develop a plan to improve any workforce shortages. Nurses are
7 exempt, as Act 198, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2003 creates a
8 center for nursing that addresses nursing workforce issues. The

9 shall:

- 10 (1) Compile and analyze existing data on the supply and
11 distribution of licensed health care practitioners,
12 technicians, and other health care workers in the
13 state by profession, specialty, and practice location;
- 14 (2) Develop projections through 2020 of the workforce
15 supply and demand to identify shortages;
- 16 (3) Develop a plan to address and reduce any identified
17 shortages of health care workers;
- 18 (4) Develop a plan to collect and systematically update
19 the data; and
- 20 (5) Ensure that data collected is accurate and secure and
21 that data specific to any practitioner shall be



1 disclosed only with the express written consent of the
2 practitioner.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, 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 to develop and maintain a
8 statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database,
9 to identify health care workforce shortages through 2020, and to
10 develop a plan to improve any health care workforce shortages.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
12 .

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Health Care Workforce; Map; Database

Description:

Funds the Development and maintenance of a statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database, to identify health care workforce shortages through 2020, and to develop a plan to improve any health care workforce shortages.
(SB69 HD1)

