
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.

9 Like the nursing shortage, workforce shortages in other health
10 care professions must be seen as a long-term problem.

11 Developing expertise within our state will be cost-effective
12 over time. Therefore, a partnership between the State and the
13 University of Hawaii will be an important element in creating
14 solutions to the health care workforce shortage problem.

15 The John A. Burns school of medicine shall:

16 (1) Compile and analyze existing data on the supply and
17 distribution of licensed health care practitioners,
18 technicians, and other health care workers in the
19 state by profession, specialty, and practice location;

20 (2) Develop projections through 2020 of the workforce
21 supply and demand to identify shortages;



- 1 (3) Develop a plan to address and reduce any identified
2 shortages of health care workers;
- 3 (4) Develop a plan to collect and systematically update
4 the data; and
- 5 (5) Ensure that data collected is accurate and secure and
6 that data specific to any practitioner shall be
7 disclosed only with the express written consent of the
8 practitioner.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the state health
10 planning and development agency special fund the sum of
11 \$500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
12 2007-2008, and the same sum, or so much thereof as may be
13 necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, for the John A. Burns
14 school of medicine to develop and maintain a statewide
15 comprehensive health care workforce map and database, to
16 identify health care workforce shortages through 2020, and to
17 develop a plan to improve any health care workforce shortages.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
19 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

20 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 by the John A. Burns School of Medicine, to identify health care workforce shortages through 2020, and to develop a plan to improve any health care workforce shortages. (SB69 HD2)

