

JAN 22 2007

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 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 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 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the



1 department of health to develop and maintain a statewide
2 comprehensive health care workforce map and database.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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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.

