

JAN 17 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 there is a growing
2 shortage of health care professionals in Hawaii, especially on
3 the neighbor islands and in rural areas. The State's rapidly
4 growing elderly population will significantly increase the
5 demand for health care services and long-term care. As the
6 general population ages, so does the health care workforce,
7 exacerbating the growing shortage of providers. In addition,
8 low 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 the recruitment and retention of health care providers,
12 particularly in certain specialty areas.

13 Even people who have health insurance are often unable to
14 access appropriate care due to the shortage of health care
15 workers. A fully staffed, well-trained health care workforce is
16 a key component in providing quality health care to all Hawaii
17 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 \$, or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
15 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2008-2009, for the state health planning and development
17 agency to develop and maintain a statewide comprehensive health
18 care workforce map and database.

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



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

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INTRODUCED BY: Paul H. Baker

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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 and distribution of all health care workers by specialty and practice location. Appropriates funds.

