
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII HEALTHCARE
WORKFORCE SIMULATION RESOURCE LABORATORIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that healthcare
2 organizations take seriously their responsibility to deliver
3 safe and competent care to their patients and clients.
4 Professions that have an inherent level of risk, such as
5 healthcare disciplines, are using simulation as a means to train
6 individuals and teams to learn new techniques and handle
7 unanticipated and crisis situations without real world
8 consequences. The University of Hawaii nursing programs are a
9 resource to aid the State's response to patient safety and
10 nursing workforce demand. Simulation learning contributes to
11 both of these outcomes by providing additional clinical
12 experiences, expanding the teaching capacity for students, as
13 well as preparing nurses with a hands-on learning experience
14 without the real-world consequences. According to the Joint
15 Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
16 September 2006 newsletter, simulation learning can ensure
17 patient safety in two ways:



- 1 (1) By allowing clinicians to gain experience with a wide
2 range of specific scenarios, without necessitating
3 that they practice on patients; and
- 4 (2) By helping staff to improve their skills and thereby
5 providing their real-life patients with safer, higher-
6 quality care.

7 Simulation training ranges from basic skills building, to
8 the use of trained actors playing patients, to full-blown
9 enactments of specific clinical scenarios such as a particularly
10 difficult surgery, complete with electronic mannequins that are
11 programmed to act and react like actual human patients.
12 Dedicated simulation centers provide a wider range of simulated
13 scenarios because the areas are designed to allow training to be
14 recorded and reviewed more comprehensively and simulation
15 equipment is already in place.

16 The legislature further finds that simulation learning is a
17 valuable tool when used in conjunction with classroom and
18 clinical education. Further, simulation learning can offer a
19 series of challenging simulated scenarios for effective
20 continuing education offerings to healthcare professionals and
21 provide experience to multidisciplinary groups, such as medical
22 emergency teams or disaster-preparedness response teams.



1 Finally, simulation learning can be used to certify competency
2 of the existing workforce.

3 The legislature recognizes that the experience of the
4 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental
5 hygiene in operating a clinical simulation laboratory shows that
6 this approach is embraced by faculty, students, and employers
7 alike resulting in improved learning outcomes that enhance
8 patient safety. As such, the initial expenses associated with
9 simulation learning are outweighed by the benefits to patients.

10 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
11 establish a dedicated network of healthcare workforce simulation
12 resource laboratories on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and
13 Hawaii for cross-disciplinary workforce education and training
14 to improve communication, outcomes, and patient safety to better
15 meet the needs of Hawaii's population. Once established, the
16 laboratories will serve as the community focal points for nurse,
17 physician, emergency response, and other healthcare worker
18 training and competency certification with operating costs and
19 staffing to be funded through contracts and fees.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000,000, or so
22 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and



1 \$2,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
2 year 2008-2009, for the University of Hawaii to establish a
3 network of healthcare workforce simulation resource laboratories
4 at Kauai community college, Maui community college, and the
5 University of Hawaii at Hilo, jointly used and operated by the
6 University of Hawaii at Hilo and the Hawaii community college,
7 and to expand the simulation laboratory at the University of
8 Hawaii at Manoa, to be used in conjunction with Kapiolani
9 community college.

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

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



Report Title:

UH; Healthcare Workforce Simulation Resource Laboratories;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to expand and establish healthcare workforce simulation resource laboratories throughout the University of Hawaii system for healthcare workforce development and training.
(SD1)

