

JAN 26 2009

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a severe  
2 shortage of health care providers in the State, with all five  
3 neighbor islands federally designated as medically underserved  
4 and health personnel shortage areas. While suffering from a  
5 shortage of physicians and nurses, there is also a serious  
6 shortage of other health professionals including: social  
7 workers, psychologists, medical technologists, speech and  
8 audiology therapists, nutritionists, dental hygienists,  
9 educators, and public health professionals.

10           The Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary  
11 training program, sponsored by the University of Hawaii school  
12 of nursing and dental hygiene, provides opportunities for health  
13 science and education students from the University of Hawaii at  
14 Manoa to participate on interdisciplinary teams at rural sites  
15 with faculty and community members. The curriculum emphasizes  
16 community capacity building, providing the foundation for  
17 building on the strengths and assets of each rural community in



1 using appropriate methods to enhance the health of the people  
2 who live and work there. These programs focus on all age groups  
3 and on critical issues such as diabetes, cancer, health care  
4 access, drug abuse prevention, self-esteem, smoking cessation,  
5 physical fitness, nutrition, and obesity prevention. Since  
6 2000, the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary  
7 training program has proven highly successful in recruiting  
8 health professionals to areas where they are most needed.

9 Through summer practicums, health science and education  
10 students gain valuable work experience while living and working  
11 in these rural communities and develop connections for possible  
12 future employment. They also provide opportunities for high  
13 school students from these rural communities to be mentored by  
14 the Hawaii Quentin Burdick students. Several interdisciplinary  
15 teams have expanded mentoring opportunities for rural high  
16 school students by designing and implementing comprehensive  
17 projects that help prepare high school students for college by  
18 educating them about the application process, college entrance  
19 examinations, scholarship opportunities, and tours of University  
20 of Hawaii campuses.

21 The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of  
22 health professionals in underserved rural communities in the



1 State through the continued support of the Hawaii Quentin  
2 Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2010-2011 for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health  
8 interdisciplinary training program.

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

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Health Professional Education; Workforce Development; Rural Areas; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.

