

JAN 22 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that community health
2 centers are one of Hawaii's most important health care assets,
3 and they have become even more essential to health care delivery
4 in the State during the current hard economic times. In 2008,
5 community health centers across the State met the critical care
6 needs for almost one hundred twenty thousand people while saving
7 more than \$128,000,000 in health care costs. That year,
8 community health centers provided care for about one-third of
9 all uninsured persons in Hawaii, and were the health care
10 providers for nearly one in four Med-QUEST patients.

11 The legislature further finds that community health centers
12 fill health care provider gaps in rural areas of the State by
13 providing medical care where there are not enough physicians and
14 dental care where children with medicaid coverage cannot receive
15 dental service. In the face of significant cuts to state mental
16 health programs, community health centers also serve as a safety
17 net for mental health care needs.



1 The legislature finds that Act 316, Session Laws of Hawaii
2 2006, increased the state taxes on cigarettes, and allocated a
3 portion of the increased tax revenue to community health centers
4 in Hawaii. The amount of cigarette tax revenue collected in
5 fiscal year 2008-2009 for the benefit of community health
6 centers is estimated to be \$9,000,000, an average of less than
7 \$600,000 per community health center. The administration and
8 the department of health have not released these revenues for
9 use by community health centers in the State.

10 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds from the
11 community health centers special fund for use by community
12 health centers and to direct the state administration and the
13 department of health to release the revenues in the community
14 health centers special fund for use in fiscal year 2010-2011.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the community
16 health centers special fund the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the
18 purposes of funding operations of community health centers in
19 Hawaii.

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



1 SECTION 3. The governor shall release \$ from the
 2 community health centers special fund, including all of the
 3 moneys deposited into the special fund from revenue generated by
 4 the cigarette tax, pursuant to section 245-15, Hawaii Revised
 5 Statutes, to be expended by the department of health to operate
 6 community health centers that provide health services to
 7 eligible low-income and underserved populations throughout the
 8 State.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
 10

INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Community Health Centers

Description:

Appropriates moneys from the community health centers special fund to be used by community health centers in the State. Directs the administration and the department of health to release funds to the community health centers.

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