
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 administration and the department of health have
5 not released the revenues collected for use by community health
6 centers in the state.

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

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the community
13 health centers special fund the sum of \$15,000,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the
15 purposes of funding operations of community health centers in
16 Hawaii; provided that no other funding appropriated for
17 expenditure by the department of health shall be released by the
18 governor prior to the release of the funds appropriated by this
19 Act.

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

22 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



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. Requires the Governor to release funds for the operation of community centers before the release of any other appropriated funds to the Department of Health. Effective July 1, 2050.
(SB2490 HD1)

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