
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 there is a critical
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 (Program), sponsored by the University of
12 Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene, provides
13 opportunities for health science and education students from the
14 University of Hawaii at Manoa to participate in
15 interdisciplinary teams at rural sites with faculty and
16 community members. The curriculum emphasizes community capacity
17 building, providing the foundation for building on the strengths



1 and assets of each rural community in using appropriate methods
2 to enhance the health of the people who live and work there.
3 These programs focus on all age groups and on critical issues
4 such as diabetes, cancer, health care access, drug abuse
5 prevention, self-esteem, smoking cessation, physical fitness,
6 nutrition, and obesity prevention. Since 2000, the Program has
7 proven highly successful in recruiting health professionals to
8 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, and scholarship opportunities, and through tours
20 of University of Hawaii campuses.



1 The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of
2 health professionals in underserved rural communities in the
3 state through the continued support of the Program.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
6 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum
7 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011
8 for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary
9 training program.

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, 2020.



Report Title:

Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program. (HB124 HD1)

