
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL ENTERPRISE ZONES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many factors,
2 including demographics, education, lukewarm business and tax
3 environments, and Hawaii's unique and geographically isolated
4 location have contributed significantly to a chronic shortage of
5 medical and research facilities and health care professionals in
6 the state.

7 The legislature further finds that the establishment of
8 medical enterprise zones in the state that provide a range of
9 county and state incentives will assist in stimulating the
10 creation of integrated campuses that will attract a critical
11 nucleus of medical and research facilities and create a large
12 number of highly skilled jobs in the medical and research
13 fields, including biotechnology, biomedicine, and pharmaceutical
14 research and development.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to encourage the
16 establishment of modern medical and research facilities within
17 the state and attract highly skilled general and specialized
18 medical, research, and health care professionals to work in



1 Hawaii by establishing a medical enterprise zone program that
 2 initially consists of a single pilot medical enterprise zone in
 3 west Maui. Limiting potential investments in a medical
 4 enterprise zone to west Maui will minimize the impact on the
 5 State and will allow the State to evaluate the zone's impact
 6 without negatively affecting income streams.

7 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
 8 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
 9 as follows:

10 **"CHAPTER**

11 **MEDICAL ENTERPRISE ZONES**

12 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

13 "Department" means the department of business, economic
 14 development, and tourism.

15 "Establishment" means a single physical location where
 16 medical or research services are provided in a medical or
 17 research facility. A qualified business may include one or more
 18 establishments, any number of which may be in a medical
 19 enterprise zone.

20 "Full-time employee" means any employee for whom the
 21 employer is legally required to provide employee fringe
 22 benefits.



1 "Medical enterprise zone" means any area in the state
2 declared by the department to be eligible for the benefits of
3 this chapter.

4 "Medical or research facility" includes:

- 5 (1) Acute critical access hospitals;
- 6 (2) Long-term care facilities;
- 7 (3) Medical research facilities that perform primarily
8 research and development activities relating to the
9 medical sciences, pharmaceutical development, or
10 medical treatment modalities for specific human
11 diseases or disorders and may include biomedical
12 research facilities;
- 13 (4) Offices of physicians, dentists, nurses, clinical
14 specialists, other medical or research professionals,
15 or other practitioners of the healing arts either in
16 private practice or within organized ambulatory health
17 care facilities; and
- 18 (5) Any other facility as determined by the department.

19 "Qualified business" means any medical or research facility
20 that is:

- 21 (1) Authorized to do business in this state; and
- 22 (2) Is located within the medical enterprise zone.



1 "Taxes due the State" means income taxes due under chapter
2 235.

3 **§ -2 Administration.** The department shall administer
4 this chapter and have the power and duty to:

- 5 (1) Monitor the implementation and operation of this
6 chapter;
- 7 (2) Conduct a continuing evaluation program of the medical
8 enterprise zones;
- 9 (3) Assist the counties in obtaining the reduction of
10 rules within medical enterprise zones;
- 11 (4) Submit annual reports evaluating the effectiveness of
12 the program and any recommendations for legislation to
13 the legislature and the governor;
- 14 (5) Administer and enforce the rules adopted by the
15 department; and
- 16 (6) Administer this chapter in such a manner that the
17 areas designated as medical enterprise zones will most
18 benefit the areas and the State.

19 **§ -3 Medical enterprise zone designation; approval.** (a)
20 Within thirty days of the receipt, from the governing body of
21 any county in the state, of a description of the proposed
22 location in the state as a medical enterprise zone and a general



1 statement identifying proposed county incentives to complement
2 any state and federal incentives, the department shall designate
3 the proposed area as a medical enterprise zone.

4 (b) The department shall secure any additional information
5 that the department deems necessary and, within sixty days of
6 the date of designation pursuant to subsection (a), shall
7 approve the establishment of the medical enterprise zone for a
8 period of seven years.

9 **§ -4 Government assistance; prohibition.** There shall be
10 no duplication of existing state tax incentives to qualified
11 businesses that locate in a medical enterprise zone.

12 **§ -5 Rules.** The department, in consultation with the
13 department of taxation, shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
14 to implement this chapter, including rules relating to health,
15 safety, building, planning, zoning, and land use that shall
16 supersede all other inconsistent ordinances and rules relating
17 to the use, zoning, planning, and development of land and
18 construction in a medical enterprise zone. Rules adopted under
19 this section shall follow existing law, rules, and ordinances as
20 closely as is consistent with standards meeting minimum
21 requirements of energy efficiency, health, and safety. The
22 department may provide by rule that lands within a medical



1 enterprise zone shall not be developed beyond existing uses or
2 that improvements thereon shall not be demolished or
3 substantially reconstructed or provide other restrictions on the
4 use of the zone.

5 **§ -6 Eligibility; qualified business; sale of property**

6 **or services.** (a) Any medical or research facility may be
7 eligible to be designated a qualified business for purposes of
8 this chapter if:

9 (1) The medical or research facility:

10 (A) Begins the operation of a medical or research
11 facility within a medical enterprise zone;

12 (B) During each taxable year has at least per
13 cent of its medical enterprise zone
14 establishment's gross receipts attributable to
15 its operation within the medical enterprise zone;

16 (C) Increases its average annual number of full-time
17 medical or research professional employees by at
18 least per cent by the end of its first tax
19 year of participation; and

20 (D) During each subsequent taxable year at least
21 maintains that higher level of employment for
22 medical or research professional employees;



1 or

2 (2) The medical or research facility:

3 (A) Is actively engaged in the operation of a medical

4 or research facility in an area immediately prior

5 to the area being designated a medical or

6 research enterprise zone;

7 (B) Meets the requirements of paragraph (1)(B); and

8 (C) Increases its average annual number of full-time

9 employees employed at the medical or research

10 facility's establishment or establishments

11 located within the medical enterprise zone by at

12 least per cent annually.

13 (c) After approval of the medical enterprise zone, each

14 qualified business in the zone shall annually complete and

15 submit to the department, on a form supplied by the department,

16 the information necessary for the department to determine

17 whether the medical or research facility qualifies or continues

18 to qualify as a qualified business. If the department

19 determines that the medical or research facility qualifies as a

20 qualified business, the department shall approve the completed

21 form and forward copies of the completed and approved form to

22 the department of taxation and the governing body of the county.

1 (d) A completed form approved by the department, referred
2 to in subsection (c), shall be prima facie evidence of the
3 eligibility of a medical or research facility for the purposes
4 of this section.

5 (e) Any operations or services provided by a medical or
6 research facility outside of the medical enterprise zone shall
7 not be included in the determination of gross receipts
8 attributable to the active provision of services under
9 subsection (a)(1)(B).

10 **§ -7 State business tax credit.** (a) The department
11 shall certify annually to the department of taxation the
12 applicability of the tax credit provided in this chapter for a
13 qualified business against any income taxes imposed under title
14 14 that are due the State. The credit shall be:

15 (1) Eighty per cent of the tax due for the first taxable
16 year that the business qualifies as a qualified
17 business;

18 (2) Seventy per cent of the tax due for the second taxable
19 year that the business qualifies as a qualified
20 business;



1 (3) Sixty per cent of the tax due in the third taxable
2 year that the business qualifies as a qualified
3 business;

4 (4) Fifty per cent of the tax due in the fourth taxable
5 year that the business qualifies as a qualified
6 business;

7 (5) Forty per cent of the tax due in the fifth taxable
8 year that the business qualifies as a qualified
9 business;

10 (6) Thirty per cent of the tax due in the sixth taxable
11 year that the business qualifies as a qualified
12 business; and

13 (7) Twenty per cent of the tax due in the seventh year
14 that the business qualifies as a qualified business.

15 Any tax credit not usable shall not be applied to future taxable
16 years.

17 (b) When a partnership is eligible for a tax credit under
18 this section, each partner shall be eligible for the tax credit
19 provided for in this section on the partner's income tax return
20 in proportion to the partner's income tax liability from the
21 partnership. Any qualified business earning taxable income from
22 the provision of the qualified business' services, both within



1 and without the medical enterprise zone, shall allocate and
2 apportion its taxable income attributable to that provision of
3 services. Tax credits provided for in this section shall only
4 apply to taxable income of a qualified business attributable to
5 the services provided within the medical enterprise zone.

6 (c) In addition to any other tax credit authorized under
7 this section, a qualified business shall be entitled to a tax
8 credit against any taxes due the State in an amount equal to a
9 percentage of unemployment taxes paid pursuant to chapter 383.

10 The amount of the credit shall be equal to:

- 11 (1) Eighty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid for
12 during the first taxable year that the business
13 qualifies as a qualified business;
- 14 (2) Seventy per cent of the unemployment taxes paid for
15 the second year that the business qualifies as a
16 qualified business;
- 17 (3) Sixty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid for the
18 third year that the business qualifies as a qualified
19 business;
- 20 (4) Fifty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid for the
21 fourth year that the business qualifies as a qualified
22 business;



1 (5) Forty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid for the
2 fifth year that the business qualifies as a qualified
3 business;

4 (6) Thirty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid for the
5 sixth year that the business qualifies as a qualified
6 business; and

7 (7) Twenty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid for the
8 seventh year that the business qualifies as a
9 qualified business.

10 (d) Tax credits provided for in subsection (c) shall only
11 apply to the unemployment tax paid on employees employed at the
12 qualified business' establishment or establishments located
13 within the medical enterprise zone. Any tax credit not usable
14 shall not be applied to future tax years.

15 **§ -8 State general excise and use tax exemptions.** The
16 department shall certify annually to the department of taxation
17 that any qualified business is exempt from the payment of
18 general excise taxes on the gross proceeds from the provision of
19 medical or research services. The department shall also certify
20 annually to the department of taxation that any qualified
21 business is exempt from the use tax for purchases by the
22 qualified business. The gross proceeds received by a contractor



1 licensed under chapter 444 shall be exempt from the general
2 excise tax for construction within a medical enterprise zone
3 performed for a qualified business within a medical enterprise
4 zone. The exemption shall extend for a period not to exceed
5 seven years after the effective date of this Act.

6 **§ -9 Local incentives.** (a) A county may propose local
7 incentives, including:

- 8 (1) Reduction of permit fees;
9 (2) Reduction of user fees; and
10 (3) Reduction of real property taxes.

11 (b) A county may also propose measures for regulatory
12 flexibility including:

- 13 (1) Special zoning districts;
14 (2) Permit process reform;
15 (3) Exemptions from local ordinances; and
16 (4) Other public incentives proposed in the locality's
17 application, which shall be binding upon the locality
18 upon designation of the medical enterprise zone.

19 **§ -10 Termination of medical enterprise zone.** Upon
20 designation of the area as a medical enterprise zone, the
21 proposals for regulatory flexibility, tax incentives, and other
22 public incentives specified in this chapter shall be binding



1 upon the governing body of the county for a period of seven
2 years. If the governing body of the county is unable or
3 unwilling to provide any of the incentives set forth in section
4 -9 or other incentives acceptable to the department, and the
5 department has not adopted rules pursuant to section -5 that
6 supersede inconsistent ordinances and rules relating to the use,
7 zoning, planning, and development of land and construction in a
8 medical enterprise zone, then the medical enterprise zone shall
9 terminate. Qualified businesses located in the medical
10 enterprise zone shall be eligible to receive the state tax
11 incentives provided by this chapter even though the zone
12 designation has terminated. No medical or research facility may
13 become a qualified business after the date of zone termination."

14 SECTION 3. The governing body of the county of Maui,
15 pursuant to this Act, shall transmit to the director of health
16 no later than November 30, 2009, a description of a proposed
17 location in west Maui as a pilot medical enterprise zone. The
18 director of health, pursuant to this Act, shall designate the
19 proposed area as a medical enterprise zone for a period of seven
20 years.

21 SECTION 4. The department of business, economic
22 development, and tourism, in consultation with the department of



1 taxation, shall submit a written report to the legislature by
2 December 31 of each year, beginning in 2010, regarding the
3 implementation of the pilot medical enterprise zone in west
4 Maui, including an evaluation of the success or failure of the
5 pilot medical enterprise zone to fulfill its intended purpose.

6 SECTION 5. It is the intent of this Act not to jeopardize
7 the receipt of any federal aid nor to impair the obligation of
8 the State or any agency thereof to the holders of any bond
9 issued by the State or by any such agency, and to the extent,
10 and only to the extent, necessary to effectuate this intent, the
11 governor may modify the strict provisions of this Act, but shall
12 promptly report any such modification with reasons therefore to
13 the legislature at its next session thereafter for review by the
14 legislature.

15 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
16 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
17 begun, before its effective date.

18 SECTION 7. If any provision of this Act, or the
19 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
20 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
21 applications of the Act, which can be given effect without the



1 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
2 of this Act are severable.

3 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020, and
4 shall be repealed on February 28, 2017.



Report Title:

Medical Enterprise Zones; Pilot Project in West Maui

Description:

Establishes medical enterprise zones in the State to encourage the development of medical and research services. Creates a 7-year pilot medical enterprise zone in West Maui. (HB553 HD2)

