

JAN 25 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Doctors are critical components of our society,
2 providing a very important service to everyone in the State, and
3 it is the job of the legislature to ensure that the State
4 provides the best quality of life possible for all of its
5 residents. Addressing the needs and concerns of healthcare
6 providers is a key step toward keeping Hawaii healthy.

7 Over the years a number of doctors have retired or left
8 Hawaii, especially the neighbor islands, citing reasons that
9 include high medical malpractice insurance rates, low insurance
10 reimbursement rates, and the high cost of living. Hawaii has
11 been unable to replace these doctors in a manner that provides
12 Hawaii residents timely access to adequate healthcare.

13 Furthermore, in addition to the general shortage of doctors
14 in Hawaii, many of the remaining physicians are reluctant to
15 accept and treat medicaid patients, making it even more
16 difficult for this particular population to receive medical
17 services on both a regular and emergency basis.



1 The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of
2 physicians who are willing to accept medicaid patients by
3 waiving the medical licensing fees of a physician if at least
4 twenty per cent of the physician's total patient case load
5 consists of medicaid patients and medicaid-like patients.

6 SECTION 2. Section 453-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "**§453-6 Fees; expenses.** (a) No applicant shall be
9 examined under this chapter until the applicant has paid to the
10 board application, examination, and license fees[-]; provided
11 that license renewal and application fees shall be waived for
12 any applicant if at least twenty per cent of the applicant's
13 total patient case load consists of medicaid or medicaid-like
14 patients accepted and treated by the applicant. The board may
15 provide separate fees for licensure by endorsement and for
16 limited and temporary licenses.

17 (b) Every physician or surgeon holding a license under
18 this chapter shall renew the license with the board no later
19 than January 31 of each [~~even-numbered~~] even-numbered year.
20 Every osteopathic physician or surgeon holding a license
21 previously issued under chapter 460 and this chapter shall renew
22 the license with the board no later than June 30 of each even-



1 numbered year. Every physician, osteopathic physician, or
2 surgeon shall pay a renewal fee, unless the fee has been waived
3 pursuant to subsection (a), and comply with the category 1 or 1A
4 continuing medical education requirements provided in rules
5 adopted by the board.

6 (c) A physician, osteopathic physician, or surgeon shall
7 meet the category 1 or 1A continuing medical education
8 requirements by obtaining credit hours in a category 1 or 1A
9 continuing medical education program accredited by the American
10 Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association or
11 in other approved category 1 or 1A continuing medical education
12 as provided in the board's rules. To determine compliance, the
13 board may conduct a random audit. A physician, osteopathic
14 physician, or surgeon selected for audit shall be notified by
15 the board. Within sixty days of notification, the physician,
16 osteopathic physician, or surgeon shall provide to the board
17 documentation to verify compliance with the category 1 or 1A
18 continuing medical education requirements.

19 (d) Failure to renew, pay the renewal fee, and, in the
20 case of audited physicians, osteopathic physicians, or surgeons,
21 provide documentation of compliance shall constitute a
22 forfeiture of license, which may be restored only upon the



Report Title:

Waives medical licensing fees provided that no less than twenty per cent of their patient case load is Medicaid or Medicaid-like patients.

Description:

Waives the medical licensing fees for physicians licensed to practice medicine and prescribe prescription medication in the State of Hawaii, provided that no less than twenty per cent of their patient case load is Medicaid or Medicaid-like patients.

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