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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that due to a shortage of  
2 medical professionals in general and on the neighbor islands in  
3 particular, medically underserved individuals in Hawaii have  
4 limited access to necessary health care. Supplementing the  
5 health services provided by the facilities of the five regional  
6 health systems within the Hawaii health systems corporation,  
7 community health centers or federally qualified health centers  
8 provide health care to underserved populations -- mostly the  
9 medically uninsured and underinsured. Some of these health  
10 centers are located in rural areas, especially on the neighbor  
11 islands. This problem of lack of access to health care is  
12 partially alleviated by the voluntary and sporadic visits of  
13 medical professionals who travel and rent space at their own  
14 expense to operate short-term -- often one- or two-day  
15 clinics -- in underserved areas. The legislature finds that  
16 reimbursement of office rental and air travel expenses incurred  
17 by these medical professionals is both right and necessary to



1 help provide the medically uninsured and underinsured population  
2 with continued access to health care.

3 The legislature also finds that the American Recovery and  
4 Reinvestment Act of 2009 has made available a total of  
5 \$787,000,000,000 in federal stimulus funding to the states.  
6 According to recovery.gov, the United States government's  
7 official website that tracks data related to the federal  
8 stimulus funding, as of December 7, 2010, Hawaii has been  
9 awarded \$1,567,879,775, of which \$431,263,322 has been received.

10 One of the purposes of the federal stimulus funding is to  
11 stabilize and enhance the capacity of community health centers  
12 at a time when more uninsured and underinsured people are  
13 increasing demand for health care services and fewer public and  
14 private resources are available to support this surge. Federal  
15 stimulus funds are also aimed at allowing the health centers to  
16 maintain or increase clinical, support, and administrative  
17 staff. The total of federal stimulus funding awarded to  
18 community health centers to meet increased demand for services  
19 was \$2,724,725, of which \$1,868,623 had been expended as of June  
20 30, 2010.

21 Federal stimulus funding has also been awarded to community  
22 health centers for building renovation, construction, health



1 information technology, or other capital equipment under capital  
2 improvement program grants. A total of \$7,318,120 for such  
3 capital improvement has been awarded to the State, of which  
4 \$2,408,997 had been expended as of June 30, 2010.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require  
6 community health centers or federally qualified health centers  
7 to develop a program, using American Recovery and Reinvestment  
8 Act of 2009 stimulus funds, to provide reimbursement to medical  
9 professionals who travel and rent space at their own expense to  
10 operate short-term voluntary clinics in underserved areas.

11 SECTION 2. **Community health center or federally qualified**  
12 **health center; reimbursement; report.** (a) Each community  
13 health center or federally qualified health center in the State  
14 that receives federal stimulus funding from the American  
15 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 shall develop a program to  
16 provide reimbursement to medical professionals who travel and  
17 rent space at their own expense to operate short-term voluntary  
18 clinics in an underserved area in which the center is located;  
19 provided that the provision of health care services by these  
20 medical professionals is consistent with the center's own  
21 overall program to provide health care services to uninsured and  
22 underinsured individuals. If practicable, the community health



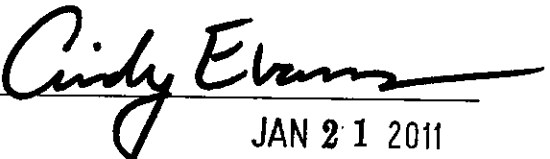
1 center or federally qualified health center shall provide  
2 partial in-kind reimbursement by providing office or clinic  
3 space rent-free.

4 (b) Each community health center or federally qualified  
5 health center shall provide a brief summary report to the  
6 legislature no later than December 31 of each year regarding any  
7 medical professionals who provided voluntary short-term health  
8 care within the center's jurisdiction, the type of medical  
9 service provided, and the amount of any reimbursement the center  
10 provided to these medical professionals under subsection (a)  
11 during the previous calendar year.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
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JAN 21 2011



**Report Title:**

Community Health Centers; Reimbursement for Voluntary Medical Services; Federal Stimulus Funds

**Description:**

Requires each community health center or federally qualified health center that receives federal stimulus funding to develop a program to provide reimbursement to medical professionals who travel at their own expense to operate short-term voluntary clinics in underserved areas.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

