
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 Hawaii has a
2 shortage of physicians compared to similar populations
3 throughout the United States. Studies of the physician
4 workforce in Hawaii demonstrate extreme shortages of primary
5 care specialties, most notably in rural areas. Rising demand on
6 the health care system in Hawaii because of population growth,
7 aging, and the prevalence of chronic disease calls for an
8 increase in the existing physician base. Access to a personal
9 physician has been shown to decrease morbidity and mortality
10 while controlling health care costs through early detection and
11 careful management of chronic disease and deferral of
12 unnecessary hospital admission and emergency room visits.

13 Despite this shortage, many medical students graduating
14 with considerable debt feel compelled to choose a non-primary-
15 care specialty with higher compensation in order to repay
16 student loans. In addition, the current stock of physicians is
17 rapidly approaching retirement age, suggesting a contraction in
18 the existing physician workforce. As the United States develops



1 the accountable care organization model for use across the
2 country, the competition to recruit new primary care providers
3 will increase.

4 Furthermore, physicians tend to remain and practice where
5 they train. If capable medical students leave Hawaii to train
6 elsewhere, they are less likely to return and practice in
7 Hawaii. Compelling research suggests that if both medical
8 school and residency are completed in Hawaii, eighty-five per
9 cent of physicians will remain and practice in Hawaii.

10 The legislature further finds that a comprehensive approach
11 that addresses the primary care workforce shortage in Hawaii
12 requires incentivizing primary care by:

- 13 (1) Reducing medical school debt via a loan repayment
14 program for medical students and other health
15 professionals who serve in shortage specialties and
16 underserved areas of Hawaii;
- 17 (2) Ensuring a culturally competent workforce for the
18 unique and diverse peoples of Hawaii with support for
19 programs and initiatives such as the Imi Hoola
20 program, which brings disadvantaged young people into
21 medical careers, and the native Hawaiian student



1 pathway to medicine program, which supports workforce
2 diversity; and

3 (3) Expanding available graduate medical education or
4 residency training positions in primary care for
5 students, such as doubling the faculty and
6 infrastructure of the existing family medicine
7 residency program at the John A. Burns school of
8 medicine and developing new accredited family health
9 centers in association with teaching hospitals.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to address the
11 shortage of primary care physicians in the State by making an
12 appropriation for the Hawaii health corps and diversity programs
13 and primary care workforce expansion at the John A. Burns school
14 of medicine.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2014-2015 for deposit into the Hawaii health corps revolving
20 fund.

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii health
22 corps revolving fund the sum of \$300,000 or so much thereof as



1 may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or
2 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015
3 for the purposes of the Hawaii health corps program, pursuant to
4 chapter 309H, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
6 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of
7 Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene for the
8 purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$560,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2014-2015 to support programs of the John A. Burns school of
14 medicine's native Hawaiian center of excellence such as the Imi
15 Hoola program and the native Hawaiian student pathway to
16 medicine program.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
18 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine for the purposes of
19 this Act.

20 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2 2014-2015 for increases in the faculty and infrastructure of the
3 existing family medicine residency program and development of
4 new accredited family health centers in association with
5 teaching hospitals.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the John A.
7 Burns school of medicine for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.



Report Title:

Primary Health Care; Primary Care Workforce Development Plan;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in the State through a comprehensive primary care workforce development plan that addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion. Effective July 1, 2013. (SB665 HD1)

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