
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RURAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRAINING.

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 primary care providers in the State. Hawaii has a
3 limited supply of primary care providers, particularly in rural
4 areas, due to our increasing demands for health care services
5 and aging physician population. The University of Hawaii John
6 A. Burns school of medicine reported that Hawaii had a shortage
7 of over two hundred primary care physicians in 2010. This
8 shortfall is expected to rapidly rise by 2020.

9 The legislature further finds that family physicians are
10 well suited to provide primary health care services in rural
11 areas due to the broad scope of their practice. Family
12 physicians furnish health care services essential to the
13 prevention and management of pediatric and adult acute and
14 chronic illnesses. Family physicians also provide maternity
15 care and mental health services.

16 In recognition of this shortage, the legislature further
17 finds the need to support and expand the family medicine
18 residency program of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns



1 school of medicine and to develop a permanent statewide rural
2 primary health care training program in the county of Hawaii.
3 This expanded program is consistent with the impetus of
4 establishing primary care residency programs under section 5508
5 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-
6 148).

7 The University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine
8 currently offers a three-year residency program in family
9 medicine. The program emphasizes a system-based and
10 interdisciplinary team approach to health care. The mission of
11 the family medicine residency program is to meet the needs of
12 rural and medically underserved areas and populations in Hawaii
13 in a culturally sensitive and medically appropriate manner.
14 Family medicine program residents provide not only health care
15 but also education and outreach at schools and community events.

16 Presently, family medicine program residents spend two
17 months in a federally-funded rural health care training
18 demonstration project, initiated in Hilo in 2006, in which
19 residents learn how to provide health care to medically
20 underserved patients in rural areas as they rotate among private
21 physician offices, emergency departments, and the community,
22 providing outreach and education.



1 The purpose of this Act is to increase access to primary
2 health care services provided by family physicians or residents
3 in the family medicine residency program at the University of
4 Hawaii to medically underserved residents in rural areas of the
5 state by appropriating funds to:

6 (1) Support and expand the family medicine residency
7 program of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
8 school of medicine's department of family medicine and
9 community health to provide rural primary health care
10 services; and

11 (2) Develop a permanent statewide rural primary health
12 care training program in the county of Hawaii to
13 expand the rural health care training available for
14 individuals in the family medicine residency program
15 of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of
16 medicine.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$_____ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to
20 support and expand the family medicine residency program at the
21 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine's



1 department of family medicine and community health to provide
2 rural primary health care services.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to
6 develop a statewide rural primary health care training program
7 to provide access to family physicians in rural areas and
8 improve health care access for the people of Hawaii.

9 SECTION 4. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
10 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine for the
11 purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. For the purposes of this Act, the University of
13 Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine shall solicit and accept
14 grants and donations from public and private sources, including
15 maximizing the use of federal grants and matching funds.

16 SECTION 6. This Act does not change the standards of any
17 medical residency program or affect the existing relationship
18 between the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of
19 medicine and the various hospitals that take part in any
20 residency program.

21 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

22



H.B. NO. 311

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JAN 18 2013



H.B. NO. 311

Report Title:

Primary Health Care Training; Rural Areas

Description:

Appropriates funds to support and expand the family medicine residency program of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine to provide rural primary health care services and develop a statewide rural primary health care training program.

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