

JAN 15 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many residents of
2 Hawaii are increasingly unable to obtain timely and appropriate
3 health care due to shortages of primary health care providers in
4 the State. These shortages threaten the health of Hawaii's
5 residents and affect state health care costs. These shortages
6 have pushed the federal government to designate a number of
7 areas in the State, particularly rural areas, as medically
8 underserved areas, health professional shortage areas, or as
9 having medically underserved populations.

10 The legislature further finds that the increasingly high
11 cost of health care professional education requires individuals
12 to seek out the higher incomes that allow them to repay their
13 student loans. However, these higher incomes are usually in
14 specialty care in urban areas, not in the areas of greatest need
15 in Hawaii. Since September 1, 2012, a total of sixteen
16 physicians and nurse practitioners have received loan repayment
17 to work in health professions shortage areas in Hawaii and are
18 still serving these communities through a loan repayment program



1 started by the John A. Burns School of Medicine. The program
2 was started with private donations and matching federal funding.

3 The purpose of this Act is to fund the Hawaii health corps
4 loan repayment program under the John A. Burns School of
5 Medicine to provide loan repayment for physicians, physician
6 assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social
7 workers who agree to work in a federally designated health
8 professions shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be
9 underserved.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
13 implementation and administration of the Hawaii health corps
14 loan repayment program.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the John A. Burns
16 school of medicine of the University of Hawaii for the purposes
17 of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.
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S.B. NO. 2058

Report Title:

Hawaii Health Corps Loan Repayment Program; University of Hawaii; John A. Burns School of Medicine; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii health corps loan repayment program.

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