

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICINE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2008, United  
2 States health care spending was about \$7,681 per resident and  
3 accounted for 16.2 per cent of the nation's gross domestic  
4 product, among the highest of all industrialized countries.  
5 Expenditures in the United States on health care surpassed  
6 \$2,300,000,000,000 in 2008, more than three times the  
7 \$714,000,000,000 spent in 1990, and over eight times the  
8 \$253,000,000,000 spent in 1980. It is estimated that health  
9 care costs for chronic disease treatment account for over  
10 seventy-five per cent of national health expenditures. Seven  
11 out of ten deaths among Americans each year are from chronic  
12 diseases. Heart disease, cancer, and stroke account for more  
13 than fifty per cent of all deaths each year. The last major  
14 report from the World Health Organization in March 2003  
15 concluded diet was a major factor in the cause of chronic  
16 diseases. Dramatic increases in chronic diseases have been seen  
17 in Asian countries since the end of World War II with the



1 increase in the gross national product and change to the western  
2 diet.

3 The legislature further finds that only nineteen per cent  
4 of medical students believed that they had been extensively  
5 trained in nutrition counseling. Fewer than fifty per cent of  
6 primary care physicians include nutrition or dietary counseling  
7 in their patient visits. Practicing physicians continually rate  
8 their nutrition knowledge and skills as inadequate. More than  
9 one-half of graduating medical students report that the time  
10 dedicated to nutrition instruction is inadequate.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require the Hawaii medical  
12 board to:

- 13 (1) Set content standards for continuing education  
14 requirements concerning chronic disease, including  
15 appropriate information on prevention of chronic  
16 disease, and treatment of patients with chronic  
17 disease through changes in nutrition and lifestyle  
18 behavior;
- 19 (2) Disseminate information regarding the prevention and  
20 treatment of chronic disease by the application of  
21 changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior; and



1 (3) Convene a working group to discuss nutrition and  
2 lifestyle behavior for the prevention and treatment of  
3 chronic disease.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§453- Chronic disease; nutrition and lifestyle behavior  
8 information. The Hawaii medical board shall periodically  
9 disseminate information and educational material regarding the  
10 prevention and treatment of chronic disease, through the  
11 application of changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior, to  
12 each licensed physician and surgeon and to each hospital in the  
13 State.

14 §453- Chronic disease; continuing education content  
15 standards. The Hawaii medical board shall set content standards  
16 for continuing education requirements concerning chronic  
17 disease, including appropriate information on prevention of  
18 chronic disease, and treatment of patients with chronic disease  
19 through changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior."

20 SECTION 3. The Hawaii medical board shall convene a  
21 working group of interested parties to discuss nutrition and  
22 lifestyle behavior changes for the prevention and treatment of



1 chronic disease at one of its meetings no later than July 1,  
2 2016. The board shall submit a report of its findings and  
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
5 the regular session of 2017.

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.

8



**Report Title:**

Physicians; Continuing Education; Nutrition and Lifestyle Behavior

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii medical board to set content standards for physician continuing education regarding prevention and treatment of chronic disease through changes in nutrition and lifestyle. Requires the board to disseminate information on the subject to physicians and hospitals in the State. Directs the board to assemble a working group to discuss nutrition and lifestyle behavior for the treatment and prevention of chronic disease at a board meeting before July 1, 2016. Effective January 1, 2050. (SD1)

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

