
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 due to population growth,
7 aging, and the prevalence of chronic disease call 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 entire United States



1 develops the accountable care organization model, the
2 competition to recruit new primary care providers will increase.

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

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

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



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

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

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

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii health
20 corps revolving fund the sum of \$300,000 or so much thereof as
21 may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or
22 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015



1 for purposes pursuant to section 309H-6, Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes.

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

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

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

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
22 2014-2015 for increases in faculty and infrastructure of the



1 existing family medicine residency program and development of
2 new accredited family health centers in association with
3 teaching hospitals.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY: John M. ...

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S.B. NO. 665

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.

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