

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. Hawaii has a shortage of physicians, compared  
2 to populations of a similar size and demographic found elsewhere  
3 in the United States. Rising demand within the health care  
4 system of Hawaii due to population growth, aging, and the  
5 prevalence of chronic diseases calls for an increase in the  
6 existing physician base. Studies of the physician workforce in  
7 Hawaii demonstrate extreme shortages of primary care  
8 specialties, most notably in rural areas. Access to a personal  
9 physician is shown to decrease morbidity and mortality and to  
10 control health care costs. Physician access promotes early  
11 detection and careful management of chronic diseases, deferral  
12 of unnecessary hospital admissions, and avoidance of unnecessary  
13 emergency department visits.

14           Despite this shortage, many medical students graduate with  
15 considerable educational debt and are obligated to choose a non-  
16 primary care specialty with higher compensation to repay their  
17 student loans. In addition, many of the practicing physicians



1 in Hawaii are approaching retirement age, suggesting a further  
 2 contraction in the existing available physician workforce. As  
 3 the United States adopts an accountable care organization model  
 4 largely built upon primary care providers, the competition to  
 5 recruit new primary care providers will increase. Financial  
 6 support of a family medicine residency training program will  
 7 enable the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine  
 8 to increase its number of resident positions as well as begin  
 9 steps to implement a family medicine program on Kauai or in  
 10 North Hawaii.

11 The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of  
 12 physicians in Hawaii, starting with family medicine primary care  
 13 physicians for rural Oahu and neighbor island communities in the  
 14 State, by making an appropriation for graduate medical  
 15 education.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for  
 19 medical resident positions in rural Oahu and neighbor island  
 20 communities and the following associated costs:



- 1           (1) Increases in faculty and infrastructure of the
- 2                   existing University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of
- 3                   Medicine, Family Medicine Residency Program; and
- 4           (2) Development of new accredited family health centers in
- 5                   association with teaching hospitals.

6           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
7 Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine for the purposes of this  
8 Act.

9           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2070.



**Report Title:**

John A. Burns School of Medicine; Physician Shortage;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to fund medical residency programs to help alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in rural Oahu and neighbor island communities. (HB1758 HD1)

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

