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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SPECIAL FUND.

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

1           SECTION 1. Many residents of Hawaii are increasingly  
2 unable to obtain timely and appropriate health care due to the  
3 shortage of primary health care providers in the State. These  
4 shortages threaten the health of Hawaii's residents,  
5 particularly those on the neighbor islands and in rural  
6 communities, and affect health care costs in the State. The  
7 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine's  
8 physician workforce assessment is a valuable tool that provides  
9 ongoing assessment and planning of the physician workforce in  
10 Hawaii. Based on the data provided through the workforce  
11 assessment, the John A. Burns school of medicine educates and  
12 trains physicians in primary care and other needed specialties.  
13           The cost of education for health care professionals  
14 continues to increase. Health care professionals with high  
15 levels of student loan debt may therefore seek out higher-income  
16 specialties to be better able to repay these loans. However,  
17 these higher incomes are usually found in specialty care in



1 urban areas, rather than in medically underserved or rural areas  
2 of the State. The Hawaii state loan repayment program, which  
3 was started with private donations and matching federal funding,  
4 gives primary health care providers an incentive to provide care  
5 at designated health professional shortage areas in Hawaii in  
6 order to receive assistance with repayment of educational loan  
7 debt.

8 The John A. Burns school of medicine special fund is  
9 permitted to receive funding from a variety of sources.  
10 Expanding the purpose of the John A. Burns school of medicine  
11 special fund to encompass loan repayment for health care  
12 professionals would enable the special fund to accept moneys  
13 that may be applied toward the loan repayment program, in  
14 addition to the special fund's existing support of physician  
15 workforce assessment and planning.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to enable the  
17 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine to  
18 continue to evaluate Hawaii's health care needs, graduate new  
19 physicians, and accept and disburse funds toward health care  
20 student loan repayment by:



- 1           (1)    Permitting moneys in the John A. Burns school of
- 2                    medicine special fund to be used for loan repayment
- 3                    for certain health care professionals; and
- 4           (2)    Extending the sunset date of the physician workforce
- 5                    assessment fee and related requirements for use of
- 6                    moneys in the John A. Burns school of medicine special
- 7                    fund.

8           SECTION 2.   Section 304A-2171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

9 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

10           "(c)   Moneys in the special fund shall be used to support

11 the John A. Burns school of medicine's activities related to

12 physician workforce assessment and planning within Hawaii[+] and

13 loan repayment for certain healthcare professionals; provided

14 that of the physician workforce assessment fees transferred and

15 deposited into the special fund pursuant to section 453-8.8, no

16 less than fifty per cent of the total amount of assessment fees

17 deposited shall be used for purposes identified by the Hawaii

18 medical education council to support physician workforce

19 assessment and planning efforts, including the recruitment and

20 retention of physicians, for rural and medically underserved

21 areas of the State; provided further that expenditures from the



1 special fund shall be limited to no more than \$245,000 annually.  
 2 This shall include but not be limited to maintaining accurate  
 3 physician workforce assessment information and providing or  
 4 updating personal and professional information, [~~that~~] which  
 5 shall be maintained in a secure database. The John A. Burns  
 6 school of medicine may disclose information specific to any  
 7 physician only with the express written consent of that  
 8 physician."

9 SECTION 3. Act 18, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, as  
 10 amended by Act 186, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is amended by  
 11 amending section 9 to read as follows:

12 "SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009;  
 13 provided that sections 3 and 4 shall be repealed on June 30,  
 14 [~~2017-~~] 2021."

15 SECTION 4. Act 186, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is  
 16 amended by amending section 5 to read as follows:

17 "SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2012;  
 18 provided that section 1 shall be repealed on June 30, [~~2017-~~]  
 19 2021, and section 304A-2171(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall  
 20 be reenacted in the form in which it read on June 28, 2012."



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2525.



**Report Title:**

John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund; Loan Repayment;  
Physician Workforce Assessment; Fee

**Description:**

Permits monies in the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund to be used for loan repayment for certain health care professionals. Extends the sunset date from the physician workforce assessment fee and related requirements for use of monies in the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund.  
(HB1949 HD1)

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