
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State faces a
2 severe shortage of healthcare providers. This shortage is
3 particularly acute in the field of primary care, in which most
4 healthcare cost savings result from prevention and early
5 intervention.

6 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii health
7 systems corporation primary care training program is an
8 effective way to reduce the impact of the shortage of primary
9 care providers and improve access to healthcare throughout the
10 State. Administered by Hilo medical center in coordination with
11 the Hawaii health systems corporation regions, this
12 interdisciplinary program includes: the Hawaii island family
13 medicine residency program; training for advanced practice
14 nurses from the school of nursing and dental hygiene at the
15 University of Hawaii at Manoa and the school of nursing at the
16 University of Hawaii at Hilo; clinical pharmacists from the
17 University of Hawaii at Hilo's college of pharmacy; and post-



1 doctoral fellows from I Ola Lahui, an organization that trains
2 psychologists to meet the needs of residents of rural areas.

3 The success of this program, which will be expanded to
4 neighbor island health facilities, will generate
5 interdisciplinary teams capable of caring for four times as many
6 patients as independent practicing physicians. Hawaii will
7 benefit greatly as the Hawaii health systems corporation
8 regions' program will eliminate the need to train or attract
9 unattainably high numbers of physicians.

10 The legislature also finds that the average incremental
11 cost of each resident in the program is \$150,000, and that four
12 new residents will join the training program in July 2015.
13 Additionally, the legislature finds that the increased funding
14 for the program provided by this Act over previous
15 appropriations and funding requests will cover costs related to
16 the new residents and ultimately financially stabilize the
17 program.

18 The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of
19 primary care providers in the State by appropriating funds for
20 the interdisciplinary Hawaii health systems corporation primary
21 care training program at Hilo medical center.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,600,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the
4 interdisciplinary Hawaii health systems corporation primary care
5 training program at Hilo medical center.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii health
7 systems corporation for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,700,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
11 interdisciplinary Hawaii health systems corporation primary care
12 training program at Hilo medical center.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii health
14 systems corporation for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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H.B. NO. 247

Report Title:

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; Primary Care Training Program; Appropriation

Description:

Addresses primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii health systems corporation primary care training program at Hilo Medical Center.

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