
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many residents of
2 Hawaii are increasingly unable to obtain timely and appropriate
3 health care due to shortages of primary health care providers in
4 the State. These shortages threaten the health of Hawaii's
5 residents and affect state health care costs. These shortages
6 have pushed the federal government to designate a number of
7 areas in the State, particularly rural areas, as medically
8 underserved areas, health professional shortage areas, or as
9 having medically underserved populations.

10 The legislature further finds that the increasingly high
11 cost of health care professional education requires individuals
12 to seek out the higher incomes that allow them to repay their
13 student loans. However, these higher incomes are usually
14 acquired in specialty care in urban areas, not in the areas of
15 greatest need in Hawaii. Since September 1, 2012, a total of
16 sixteen physicians and nurse practitioners have received loan
17 repayment to work in health professions shortage areas in Hawaii



1 and are still serving these communities through a loan repayment
2 program started by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School
3 of Medicine. The program was started with private donations and
4 matching federal funding.

5 The purpose of this Act is to fund the Hawaii health corps
6 loan repayment program under the John A. Burns School of
7 Medicine to provide loan repayment for physicians, physician
8 assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social
9 workers who agree to work in a federally designated health
10 professions shortage area or in an area of Hawaii found to be
11 underserved.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2016-2017 for the implementation and administration of the
17 Hawaii health corps loan repayment program.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the John A.
19 Burns school of medicine of the University of Hawaii for the
20 purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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~~As~~
John M. Brown

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JAN 26 2015

H.B. NO. 862

Report Title:

Hawaii Health Corps; Loan Repayment Program

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii health corps loan repayment program.

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