

JAN 22 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE 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 care and behavioral
4 health providers. Such shortages threaten the health of
5 Hawaii's residents and affect state health care costs. These
6 shortages have pushed the federal government to designate a
7 number of areas in the State, particularly rural areas, as
8 medically underserved areas, health professional shortage areas,
9 or as 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 in
14 specialty care in urban areas, not in the areas of greatest need
15 in Hawaii. Since September 1, 2012, a total of sixteen
16 physicians and nurse practitioners have received loan repayment
17 to work in health professional shortage areas in Hawaii and are



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

5 The purpose of this Act is to fund the Hawaii state loan
6 repayment program for primary and behavioral health care under
7 the John A. Burns school of medicine of the University of Hawaii
8 to provide loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants,
9 nurse practitioners, psychologists, counselors, and social
10 workers who agree to work in a federally designated health
11 professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be
12 underserved.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$450,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
17 2016-2017 for the implementation and administration of the
18 Hawaii state loan repayment program.

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



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

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INTRODUCED BY: *J. L. M.*

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Report Title:

Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program; John A. Burns School of Medicine; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii state loan repayment program.

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