

JAN 20 2017

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# 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, several physicians and  
16 nurse practitioners have received loan repayment to work in  
17 health professional shortage areas in Hawaii and are still



1 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 \$311,875 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
17 2018-1019 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.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

Kal Phoonh

Will Zyew

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# S.B. NO. 734

**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.

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

