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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to a  
2 November 2016 report by the University of Hawaii, Hawaii loses  
3 on average fifty physicians per year due to retirement. It is  
4 estimated that there will be a shortage of three to seven  
5 hundred physicians by 2020. Within ten years, approximately  
6 fifty-two per cent of physicians in the State will be sixty-five  
7 years of age or older, which is a common age for retirement.

8           During the 2016-2017 academic year, the John A. Burns  
9 school of medicine enrolled a total of two hundred eighty  
10 students. Of the approximately two thousand three hundred  
11 individuals who applied, only seventy - which is the largest  
12 class the school can accommodate without adding faculty or  
13 expanding facilities - were accepted into the first-year class.

14           It is imperative that the State attempt to reduce this  
15 physician shortfall. Initiatives such as adding faculty or  
16 expanding facilities at the John A. Burns school of medicine are  
17 costly. However, a less expensive alternative exists:



1 financially assisting Hawaii residents to attend medical school  
2 in foreign nations in which the costs of education and living  
3 are lower than in Hawaii. Many physicians who currently  
4 practice in Hawaii have graduated from foreign medical schools,  
5 including those in the Philippines, and some of these physicians  
6 currently send their children to the Philippines to study  
7 medicine.

8 The colleges of medicine in the Philippines provide an  
9 attractive option for Hawaii students who wish to pursue a  
10 medical education, which would help to alleviate the growing  
11 shortage of practicing physicians in the State. Additionally,  
12 foreign students from many other Asian nations attend colleges  
13 of medicine in the Philippines. The legislature believes that  
14 more Hawaii residents intending to practice medicine would be  
15 encouraged to pursue their studies in the Philippines and return  
16 to address Hawaii's physician shortfall if their education is  
17 subsidized.

18 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
19 health to conduct a study regarding the establishment of a pilot  
20 program under which residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of  
21 medicine degree at colleges of medicine in the Philippines, with



1 state-provided financial support, in exchange for a commitment  
2 to practice medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall conduct a  
4 study regarding the establishment of a pilot program under which  
5 residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of medicine degree at a  
6 college of medicine in the Philippines, with state-provided  
7 financial support, in exchange for a commitment to practice  
8 medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

9 (b) The study shall consider the following:

10 (1) What qualifications, including those pertaining to  
11 legal residence and academic achievement, individuals  
12 shall meet to be eligible to participate in the pilot  
13 program; provided that eligibility criteria shall be  
14 structured to encourage individuals throughout Hawaii,  
15 particularly rural and underserved areas, to apply to  
16 and participate in the pilot program;

17 (2) The amount of financial support to be provided by the  
18 State to individuals participating in the pilot  
19 program and how such amounts shall be determined;

20 (3) The purposes for which the financial support provided  
21 in paragraph (2) may be used; provided that tuition,



1 room and board, and transportation shall be allowable  
2 expenses;

3 (4) The required length and any other conditions of an  
4 individual's commitment to practice medicine in the  
5 State after graduation; provided that individuals  
6 shall be:

7 (A) Required to complete their medical internships in  
8 the United States; and

9 (B) Strongly encouraged to practice medicine in their  
10 home communities in Hawaii;

11 (5) The penalties to be imposed on or reimbursement of  
12 financial support to be required of, if any, an  
13 individual who fails to:

14 (A) Complete the doctor of medicine degree at a  
15 college of medicine in the Philippines; or

16 (B) Meet the required commitment to practice medicine  
17 in Hawaii after graduation;

18 (6) Any visa and other immigration requirements or  
19 restrictions imposed by the host nation on individuals  
20 participating in the pilot program;



1           (7) An analysis of the educational equivalency and  
 2           accreditation standards of colleges of medicine in the  
 3           Philippines as compared to medical schools in the  
 4           United States; and

5           (8) Any professional licensing or other requirements  
 6           applicable to graduates of foreign medical schools  
 7           that need to be met by individuals participating in  
 8           the pilot program before they are authorized to  
 9           practice medicine in the State.

10          SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report  
 11 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
 12 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
 13 to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

14          SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
 16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the  
 17 department of health to conduct the study required under section  
 18 2 of this Act.

19          The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 20 health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# H.B. NO. 1089

**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Philippine Medical Education; Pilot Program

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to perform a study regarding a pilot program to pay for Hawaii residents to attend a college of medicine in the Philippines in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawaii after graduation.

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