
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a shortage
2 of health care professionals in the State and that this shortage
3 is especially acute in rural areas. According to the federal
4 Health Resources and Services Administration, an entity of the
5 United States Department of Health and Human Services, there
6 were 17,657 geographic areas, populations, and facilities
7 designated as having too few primary care, dental, and mental
8 health care providers.

9 In Hawaii, the Health Resources and Services Administration
10 reported that the counties of Hawaii and Maui each have an
11 average deficiency of twenty-five full-time health care service
12 professionals, while the county of Kauai has a shortage of
13 thirteen full-time health care service professionals. These
14 shortages are expected to worsen as physicians and nurses
15 working in rural areas retire faster than new health care
16 recruits can replace them. Simultaneously, the population in
17 the State's rural areas has increased in recent years, even as



1 the State's overall population has seen a decline. These two
2 factors combined will lead to a worsening of the ratio between
3 health care professionals to patients. The legislature
4 recognizes that as this ratio worsens, so may the quality of
5 care for patients.

6 To counteract this trend, there is a demand for an increase
7 in health care facilities in the State's rural areas. However,
8 each new health care facility that opens must hire qualified
9 health care professionals to staff the facility. Unfortunately,
10 this situation often results in the new facility seeking to hire
11 professionals from existing facilities in the local area.

12 The legislature finds that recruitment of this nature may
13 adversely affect the quality of medical care at existing
14 facilities by increasing the ratio of health care professionals
15 to patients and forcing the facility to increase overtime or
16 hire temporary staff to cover the resulting staffing shortfall.
17 The legislature recognizes that there is a demand for expanded
18 health care services in rural areas; however, the legislature
19 also recognizes that policies must be adopted to protect the
20 viability and quality of existing health care services while not



1 restricting the ability of new health care facilities to open in
2 rural areas.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require the state health
4 planning and development agency to consider the relationship to
5 the existing health care system of an area, including workforce
6 availability, as part of its certificate of need review.

7 SECTION 2. Section 323D-43, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

9 "(c) The state agency may adopt criteria for certificate
10 of need review [~~which~~] that are consistent with this section.
11 Such criteria may include but are not limited to need[~~7~~];
12 cost[~~7~~]; quality[~~7~~]; accessibility[~~7~~]; availability[~~7~~];
13 relationship to the existing health care system of the area,
14 including the availability of workforce; and acceptability.

15 Each decision of the state agency to issue a certificate of
16 need shall, except in an emergency situation that poses a threat
17 to public health, be consistent with the state health services
18 and facilities plan in effect under section 323D-15. Each
19 certificate of need issued shall be valid for a period of one
20 year from the date of issuance unless the period is extended for
21 good cause by the state agency and expenditures for the project



1 shall not exceed the maximum amount of the expenditures approved
2 in the certificate of need."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOH; SHPDA; Health; Hospitals; Certificate of Need; Rural Areas;
Workforce Availability

Description:

Includes the relationship to the existing health care system of an area, including the availability of workforce, as a criterion that the State Health Planning and Development Agency may adopt as part of its certificate of need review. Effective 7/1/2050.
(HD1)

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