
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RESIDENCY PROGRAMS FOR HAWAII MEDICAL SCHOOL
GRADUATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that stemming the
2 critical and growing shortage of qualified physicians in Hawaii
3 is a matter of statewide public concern. Contributing
4 significantly to this shortage is a lack of residency training
5 opportunities for local medical graduates.

6 Residency training is supervised, hands-on training that
7 must be completed to be licensed, board certified, and able to
8 practice independently. This course of training lasts at least
9 three years and exposes new doctors to a variety of care
10 settings including community clinics, diverse patients and
11 cases, and cutting-edge research and care.

12 A recent study by the John A. Burns School of Medicine
13 demonstrates that although medical school class size is
14 increasing, the available residency positions for graduating
15 doctors in Hawaii continues to shrink. In fact, Hawaii is in
16 the bottom quintile of residency positions per population in the



1 nation. Funds provided by the federal government only support a
2 small portion of the costs associated with multi-year post-
3 graduation physician training, however this amount falls far
4 below that necessary to support or expand physician residency
5 programs to the volume necessary to meet the needs of Hawaii's
6 aging population. Likewise, although providing some offset, the
7 federal funding has failed to keep pace with the increasing
8 costs associated with post-doctoral residency training thereby
9 placing significant financial burden on teaching hospitals. Due
10 to this increase cost burden, these institutions have been
11 forced to reduce the number of residency opportunities.

12 The purpose of this act is to provide additional long-term
13 funding to encourage teaching hospitals within the State of
14 Hawaii to add to their resident training programs for physicians
15 and to help defray some of the expenses associated with these
16 programs.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
21 2020-2021 to providing funding to supplement the maintenance and



H.B. NO. 609

1 growth of physician residency programs within the state of
 2 Hawaii; provided that no funds shall be released unless matched
 3 dollar-for-dollar by private funding interests, such as teaching
 4 hospitals and institutions providing graduate medical education.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
 6 of Hawaii through the medical education counsel for the purposes
 7 of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 18 2019



H.B. NO. 609

Report Title:

John A. Burns School of Medicine; Physician Shortage; Residency; Appropriation; Matching Funds

Description:

Appropriates moneys to the graduate medical education program for physician residency programs in Hawaii; provided that the funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by private sector medical hospitals and institutions.

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