
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHING HOSPITALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii faces a
2 growing shortage of physicians to provide direct care to
3 patients. The Hawaii physician workforce project reported in
4 October 2018 that Hawaii had a shortage of five hundred thirteen
5 full-time equivalent positions. When adjusted for island
6 geography and unmet specialty-specific needs by county, the
7 estimated unmet need for physicians was seven hundred ninety-
8 seven positions, an increase from seven hundred sixty-nine
9 positions in the previous year.

10 The largest shortage statewide and on all islands is
11 primary care. The largest subspecialty shortages statewide, by
12 per cent of estimated unmet need are: infectious disease,
13 pathology, colorectal surgery, neurosurgery, and pulmonology.
14 In the county of Hawaii, there is a one hundred per cent
15 shortage of physicians in colorectal surgery, infectious
16 diseases, and neonatal-perinatal subspecialties.



1 The legislature further finds that a teaching hospital on
2 Hawaii island may help to attract and retain a high-quality,
3 diverse physician workforce to the State. Teaching hospitals
4 provide a rich training ground for future medical professionals
5 across specialties. As a result, patients facing serious and
6 routine illnesses would no longer be forced to leave the island
7 or State to gain access to the best available, appropriate, and
8 innovative care.

9 In addition, teaching hospitals facilitate valuable care
10 and better outcomes for patients. The County of Hawaii has a
11 large and medically underserved rural community. The
12 residential population of Hawaii island is one of the fastest
13 growing populations in the State. The county welcomes a large
14 number of domestic and international visitors throughout the
15 year. A teaching hospital will provide a broader and more
16 complete network of care for these individuals.

17 In 2016, the legislature recognized the potential benefits
18 of a teaching hospital on Hawaii island by appropriating
19 \$500,000 for a feasibility study for a teaching hospital in
20 Kona. The appropriated funds lapsed prior to the initiation of
21 the study.



H.B. NO. 873

1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to study
 2 the impact and feasibility of creating a teaching hospital on
 3 west Hawaii island.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
 6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
 7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 8 2020-2021 to study the impact and feasibility of creating a
 9 teaching hospital on west Hawaii island.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the John A.
 11 Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii for the
 12 purposes of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 873

Report Title:

Teaching Hospital; West Hawaii; John A. Burns School of Medicine

Description:

Appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii to study the impact and feasibility of creating a teaching hospital on West Hawaii.

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

