
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many Hawaii
2 residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate health
3 care due to a shortage of health care providers in the State.
4 The ongoing shortage threatens individual health and may pose
5 adverse effects to the State's health care costs. The neighbor
6 islands, which have been designated by the federal government as
7 medically underserved areas, have been disproportionately
8 adversely affected by shortages of physicians in all areas of
9 practice. The John A. Burns school of medicine has engaged in
10 strategies to increase the number of physicians in Hawaii,
11 including, among other endeavors:

- 12 (1) Enrolling more students each year;
- 13 (2) Rotating medical students to the neighbor islands for
14 preclinical rotations for up to twelve weeks;
- 15 (3) Developing longitudinal third-year rotation sites
16 where a small number of students are in the same
17 location for five months;



- 1 (4) Developing a small number of sites for four-week
2 fourth-year clinical rotations;
- 3 (5) Developing residency or fellowship rotations on
4 neighbor islands; and
- 5 (6) Administering the State's loan repayment program that
6 places recipients in underserved communities,
7 especially the neighbor islands.

8 Existing physician workforce data indicate that Hawaii has
9 a shortage of about seven hundred fifty doctors when compared to
10 the general United States physician-patient ratios for a similar
11 demographic population. Primary care, internal medicine, and
12 some specialty physician shortages represent Hawaii's greatest
13 areas of need. Without these physicians, the people of Hawaii
14 do not have access to the health care they need.

15 Research from the John A. Burns school of medicine suggests
16 that if graduates complete their medical school and residency
17 training in Hawaii, about eighty per cent of those physicians
18 remain in Hawaii to practice. Medical residents who train on
19 the neighbor islands are more likely to subsequently practice on
20 the neighbor islands. Expanding capacity for year-round medical
21 education training will create a pipeline of new physicians



1 positioned to initiate neighbor island practices. With a fully
2 developed program that focuses on medically underserved areas
3 such as the neighbor islands, it will be possible to expand the
4 State's primary care, family medicine, internal medicine, and
5 some specialty residencies.

6 In Hawaii, graduate medical costs are largely borne by the
7 University of Hawaii and its affiliated health systems.

8 Although some federal funding has been used by the health
9 systems to cover a portion of the costs, there are areas where
10 the State can invest and expand medical education and training
11 using the newly available American Rescue Plan Act funding.

12 Existing primary care residencies hosted in Hawaii's health
13 systems on the neighbor islands could be leveraged to expand
14 medical education and training, which would require the hiring
15 of dedicated teaching faculty. Funding is also required for
16 student and resident support, including travel, housing, and
17 other coordinated activities across all sites.

18 The legislature recognizes that ongoing funding of medical
19 education is vital to address the physician shortage in Hawaii.
20 Considerable public outcomes can be achieved by expanding
21 capacity for training medical students with the goal of having



1 these students ultimately remain in Hawaii to practice. One way
2 to promote this outcome is to reestablish the Hawaii medical
3 education special fund as a means of funding graduate medical
4 education and training programs to support an expansion of key
5 positions.

6 In addition, there is strong collaboration between the John
7 A. Burns school of medicine and the United States Department of
8 Veterans Affairs. The United States Department of Veterans
9 Affairs health system currently invests in Hawaii-based
10 residency positions using a separate federal pool of resources
11 for support. With additional faculty members, the capacity to
12 train additional Hawaii-based residents through the Veterans
13 Health Administration's program will enable the John A. Burns
14 school of medicine to expand the number of residency rotations
15 and create new training opportunities.

16 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

17 (1) Reestablish the Hawaii medical education special fund
18 to enable the John A. Burns school of medicine, in
19 consultation with the Hawaii medical education
20 council, to provide funding for medical education and
21 training in Hawaii;



1 (2) Appropriate moneys to the John A. Burns school of
2 medicine to expand medical residency and training in
3 Hawaii, with an emphasis on supporting residency
4 training on the neighbor islands and in medically
5 underserved populations throughout the State; and

6 (3) Appropriate moneys to the John A. Burns school of
7 medicine to create further medical residency and
8 training opportunities through a partnership between
9 the John A. Burns school of medicine and the United
10 States Department of Veterans Affairs.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to part V, subpart C, to be
13 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

14 "§304A- Hawaii medical education special fund. There is
15 established in the state treasury a Hawaii medical education
16 special fund, into which shall be deposited all moneys received
17 by the medical education council, including:

18 (1) Moneys from the federal Centers for Medicare and
19 Medicaid Services and other federal agencies;

20 (2) Appropriations made by the legislature; and



1 (3) Grants, contracts, donations, and private
2 contributions.

3 The fund shall be administered by the John A. Burns school
4 of medicine. Moneys deposited in the fund shall be expended by
5 the John A. Burns school of medicine for the purposes of the
6 graduate medical education and training programs established
7 under this chapter."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2024-2025 for the creation of additional medical
13 residencies and training opportunities for medical students in
14 counties with populations of not more than five hundred
15 thousand.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
17 of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns school of medicine for the
18 purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
2 year 2024-2025 for the expansion of medical residency and
3 training opportunities in partnership with the United States
4 Department of Veterans Affairs.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
6 of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns school of medicine for the
7 purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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Report Title:

University of Hawaii; John A. Burns School of Medicine; Medical Residencies and Training; Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund; Appropriation

Description:

Reestablishes the Hawaii medical education special fund to enable the John A. Burns School of Medicine, in consultation with the Hawaii Medical Education Council, to provide funding for medical education and training in Hawaii, with an emphasis on supporting residency training in medically underserved areas. Appropriates moneys to create more residencies and training opportunities in medically underserved areas for medical students at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to create further medical residency and training opportunities through a partnership between the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. (SD1)

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