
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 the Hawaii health
2 corps program was established in 2012 with a focus on
3 encouraging certain health care providers to serve in counties
4 that are experiencing shortages of physicians, physician
5 assistants, and nurse practitioners, with a priority given to a
6 rural area county.

7 The legislature further finds that since that time, while
8 this need remains, there is an increased need for a wider range
9 of health care providers by professions, as well as a pressing
10 need for practitioners in mental health.

11 The legislature further finds that on September 9, 2023,
12 the State launched the Hawaii healthcare education loan
13 repayment program (HELP), a separate program that is alleviating
14 the educational debt of four hundred ninety-two medical and
15 health care professionals.

16 Because of the expanded scope and purpose of HELP, the
17 purpose of this Act is to rename the Hawaii health corps program



1 to the Hawaii rural health care provider loan program to better
2 reflect the purpose of the program.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 309H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending its title to read as follows:

5 "[-]CHAPTER 309H[+]

6 HAWAII [HEALTH CORPS] RURAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LOAN PROGRAM"

7 SECTION 3. Section 309H-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending the definition of "loan repayment" or
9 "repayment of loan" to read as follows:

10 ""Loan repayment" or "repayment of loan" means the payment
11 of up to twenty per cent of a Hawaii [~~health corps~~] rural health
12 care provider loan repayment program participant's health care
13 training costs including but not limited to tuition not
14 exceeding \$35,000 per year for a maximum of five years of
15 repayment."

16 SECTION 4. Section 309H-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended as follows:

18 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

19 "(a) There is created [~~within the Hawaii health corps~~
20 ~~program,~~] the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment
21 program to be administered by the University of Hawaii John A.



1 Burns school of medicine and the University of Hawaii at Manoa
2 school of nursing and dental hygiene in partnership with a
3 lending financial institution whose operations are principally
4 conducted in Hawaii. The Hawaii rural health care provider loan
5 repayment program shall provide loan repayments to eligible
6 physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who
7 make the service commitment under subsection (b). The
8 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the
9 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental
10 hygiene shall make loan repayments directly to the financial
11 institution under subsection (b) to offset the loan repayment
12 for which the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment
13 program recipient would otherwise be liable. Loan repayments
14 shall commence upon the commencement of loan repayments by the
15 Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program
16 recipient to the lending financial institution. The University
17 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of
18 Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene shall
19 prioritize loan repayments in accordance with the greatest
20 specialty shortages for the particular county."

21 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:



1 "(e) In accordance with chapter 103D, the University of
2 Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of
3 Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene may enter
4 into written contracts with collection agencies to collect
5 delinquent reimbursements of loan repayments. All payments
6 collected, exclusive of a collection agency's commissions, shall
7 revert and be credited to the Hawaii [~~health corps~~] rural health
8 care provider loan fund. A collection agency that enters into a
9 written contract with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
10 school of medicine or the University of Hawaii at Manoa school
11 of nursing and dental hygiene to collect delinquent
12 reimbursements of loan repayments pursuant to this section may
13 collect a commission from the debtor in accordance with the
14 terms of, and up to the amounts authorized in, the written
15 contract."

16 SECTION 5. Sections 309H-2 and 309H-4, Hawaii Revised
17 Statutes, are amended by substituting the word "rural health
18 care provider loan", or similar term, wherever the word "health
19 corps", or similar term, appears, as the context requires.

20 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Hawaii Health Corps Program; Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Program; Loan Repayment

Description:

Renames the Hawaii Health Corps Program to the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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