

Help wanted: Website aims to attract doctors to Hawaii

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Hawaii's doctor shortage — especially on the Neighbor Islands — is well documented. So with that in mind and with the possibility that some Mainland physicians who have Hawaii roots may want to come back home, the University of Hawaii's medical school has teamed with the University of Hawaii Foundation to create a job-postings website.

The site has listings for doctors in a variety of fields ranging from family medicine to general surgery and internal medicine at clinics and hospitals around the state.

According to the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, Hawaii could use more than 600 physicians, 60 physician assistants and 180 nurse practitioners when compared to similar-sized communities on the Mainland.

I remember when I wrote a story late last year about possible health-care legislation that Sen. Josh Green, D-Kona-Kau, the chair of the state Senate Health Committee and a Big Island emergency room physician, as well as his state House counterpart, **Rep. Ryan Yamane**, *D-Mililani-Waikele*, told me they want to attract doctors to Hawaii.

Yamane had an interesting idea of using state resources for that effort, like perhaps waiving some of a medical student's tuition at UH if he or she agreed to develop a practice in rural Hawaii communities.

Medical school tuition isn't cheap in Hawaii or anywhere else for that matter. So if I'm a med student who has to take out student loans, that sounds like a pretty good incentive to me.