



GOV. MSG. NO. 1075

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 1477 HD2 SD2 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 1477, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Rural Primary Health Care Training" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

House Bill 1477 appropriates \$4 million in the biennium for the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine to provide rural primary health care services. Wahiawa General Hospital has determined that it can no longer support a medical residency program at its facility.

While the goal of maintaining such a program is laudable, it appears that a residency program operated by the John A. Burns School of Medicine would need to be accredited to become eligible for federal matching funds from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The accreditation process usually takes two to three years. CMS payments would go to the participating hospitals and cover the salaries of the doctors-in-residence. They would not cover the costs the medical school might incur in overseeing this type of residency program.

The University did not submit an Executive Budget request for this program. With regard to this bill, the University stated, "while this is a worthwhile cause, the John A. Burns School of Medicine has much larger commitments and priorities in fulfilling its mission to train physicians to serve Hawaii and conduct research to improve the lives of our people."

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
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For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 1477 to become law as Act 277 effective July 10, 2007 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RURAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a severe
2 shortage of primary care health providers in the state, which
3 threatens the health of our residents and affects health care
4 costs. This shortage has pushed the federal government to
5 designate a number of areas in the State, particularly rural
6 areas, as medically underserved areas, health professional
7 shortage areas, or as having medically underserved populations.

8 The legislature further finds that family physicians are
9 well-suited to rural health care due to the broad scope of their
10 practice, which encompasses inpatient, outpatient, and nursing
11 home settings, and addresses acute, chronic, and preventive
12 health across the life cycle. Many family physicians also
13 provide maternity care, family planning, and mental health
14 services through their practices.

15 The University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine
16 currently offers a three-year residency program in family
17 medicine. The program emphasizes a system-based and
18 interdisciplinary team approach to health care. The mission of



1 the family medicine residency program is to meet the needs of
2 rural and medically underserved areas and populations in Hawaii
3 in a culturally sensitive and medically appropriate manner.
4 Family medicine program residents provide not only health care
5 but also education and outreach at schools and community events.
6 Presently, family medicine program residents spend two months in
7 a federally-funded rural health care training demonstration
8 project, initiated in Hilo in 2006, in which residents learn how
9 to provide health care to medically underserved patients in
10 rural areas as they rotate among private physician offices,
11 emergency departments, and the community, providing outreach and
12 education. It is anticipated that the Hilo rural health
13 training program will be duplicated on Kauai. Additional
14 training sites will be developed in conjunction with the health
15 master planning process underway in Maui and with the hospital
16 and community health center system on Kauai. As these sites are
17 being developed, the curriculum can be structured so that family
18 medicine residents have the opportunity to rotate to neighbor
19 island sites other than Hilo.

20 The purpose of this Act is to increase access to primary
21 health care services provided by family physicians or residents
22 in the family medicine residency program at the University of



1 Hawaii to medically underserved residents in rural areas of the
2 state by appropriating funds to:

3 (1) Support and expand the family medicine residency
4 program of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
5 school of medicine's department of family medicine and
6 community health to provide rural primary health care
7 services; and

8 (2) Develop a permanent statewide rural primary health
9 care training program in the county of Hawaii to
10 expand the rural health care training available for
11 individuals in the family medicine residency program
12 of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of
13 medicine.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to support
17 and expand the family medicine residency program of the
18 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine's
19 department of family medicine and community health to provide
20 rural primary health care services.

21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,500,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to develop
2 a statewide rural primary health care training program to
3 provide family physicians to rural areas and improve health care
4 access for the people of Hawaii.

5 SECTION 4. The sums appropriated in sections 2 and 3 of
6 this Act shall be expended by the University of Hawaii John A.
7 Burns school of medicine for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

