
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 not only provide health care,
5 but also provide education and outreach at schools and community
6 events. Presently, family medicine program residents spend two
7 months in a federally-funded rural health care training
8 demonstration project, initiated in Hilo in 2006, in which
9 residents learn how to provide health care to medically
10 underserved patients in rural areas as they rotate among private
11 physician offices, emergency departments, and the community,
12 providing outreach and education. It is anticipated that the
13 Hilo rural health training program will be duplicated on Kauai.
14 Additional training sites will be developed in conjunction with
15 the health master planning process underway in Maui and with the
16 hospital and community health center system on Kauai. As these
17 sites are being developed, the curriculum can be structured so
18 that family medicine residents have the opportunity to rotate to
19 neighbor 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 or so much thereof
16 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the sum of \$1
17 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009
18 to support and expand the family medicine residency program of
19 the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine's
20 department of family medicine and community health to provide
21 rural primary health care services.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
3 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the sum of \$1
4 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009
5 to develop a statewide rural primary health care training
6 program to provide family physicians to rural areas and improve
7 health care access for the people of Hawaii.

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

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Primary Health Care; Rural Areas

Description:

Appropriates funds to: (1) develop a statewide rural primary health care training program; and (2) support the family medicine residency program of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine's department of family medicine and community health. Effective July 1, 2020. (SD2)

