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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a growing  
2 shortage of health care professionals in Hawaii, especially on  
3 the neighbor islands and in rural areas. The State's rapidly  
4 growing elderly population will significantly increase the  
5 demand for health care services and long-term care. As the  
6 general population ages, so does the health care workforce,  
7 exacerbating the growing shortage of providers. In addition,  
8 low reimbursement rates, issues related to living and working in  
9 remote communities, challenging working conditions, and the cost  
10 of medical malpractice insurance continue to create barriers to  
11 the recruitment and retention of health care providers,  
12 particularly in certain specialty areas.

13           Even people who have health insurance are often unable to  
14 access appropriate care due to the shortage of health care  
15 workers. A fully staffed, well-trained health care workforce is  
16 a key component in providing quality health care to all Hawaii  
17 residents.



1 Data is critical to understanding our healthcare workforce  
2 needs. The state health planning and development agency, the  
3 statewide Area Health Education Center, the Native Hawaiian  
4 Health Scholarship Program, the Primary Care Association, the  
5 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine, the  
6 department of health's primary care office, and other state  
7 agencies and professional organizations are part of a Workforce  
8 Hui that has long been in discussion of a database that will  
9 help determine workforce needs from a full supply standpoint.  
10 This Act is intended to acknowledge the work of the Workforce  
11 Hui and support those collaborative efforts by providing funding  
12 to collect and enter data and establish a database for workforce  
13 needs analysis to be done.

14 The purpose of this Act is to develop and maintain a  
15 statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database  
16 to:

- 17 (1) Compile and analyze existing data on the supply and  
18 distribution of all health care practitioners,  
19 technicians, and other health care workers by  
20 specialty and practice location;
- 21 (2) Develop a plan to collect and systematically update  
22 data; and



1 (3) Project and develop a plan to meet future health care  
2 workforce needs.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2008-2009 for the state health planning and development agency  
8 to develop and maintain a statewide comprehensive health care  
9 workforce map and database.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the state health  
11 planning and development agency for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Health Care Workforce Database; Supply, Demand, and Distribution

**Description:**

Establishes a statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database on supply, demand, and distribution, by specialty and practice location. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

