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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII HEALTHCARE  
WORKFORCE SIMULATION RESOURCE LABORATORIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that healthcare  
2 organizations take seriously their responsibility to deliver  
3 safe and competent care to their patients and clients.  
4 Professions that have an inherent level of risk, such as  
5 healthcare disciplines, are using simulation as a means to train  
6 individuals and teams to learn new techniques and handle  
7 unanticipated and crisis situations without real world  
8 consequences. The University of Hawaii nursing programs are a  
9 resource to aid the State's response to patient safety and  
10 nursing workforce demand. Simulation learning contributes to  
11 both of these outcomes by providing additional clinical  
12 experiences, expanding the teaching capacity for students, as  
13 well as preparing nurses with hands-on learning without the  
14 real-world consequences. According to the Joint Commission on  
15 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations September 2006  
16 newsletter, simulation learning can ensure patient safety in two  
17 ways:



- 1           (1) Allowing clinicians to gain experience with a wide  
2           range of specific scenarios, without necessitating  
3           that they practice on patients; and
- 4           (2) Helping staff to improve their skills and thereby  
5           providing their real-life patients with safer, higher-  
6           quality care.

7           Simulation training ranges from basic skills building, to  
8           the use of trained actors playing patients, to full-blown  
9           enactments of specific clinical scenarios such as a particularly  
10          difficult surgery, complete with electronic mannequins that are  
11          programmed to act and react like actual human patients.  
12          Dedicated simulation centers provide a wider range of simulated  
13          scenarios because the areas are designed to allow training to be  
14          recorded and reviewed more comprehensively and simulation  
15          equipment is already in place.

16          The legislature further finds that simulation is a valuable  
17          tool when used in conjunction with classroom and clinical  
18          education. Further, simulation learning can offer a series of  
19          challenging simulated scenarios for effective continuing  
20          education offerings to healthcare professionals and provide  
21          experience to multidisciplinary groups, such as medical  
22          emergency teams or disaster-preparedness response teams.



1 Finally, simulation can be used to certify competency of the  
2 existing workforce.

3 The legislature recognizes that the experience of the  
4 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental  
5 hygiene in operating a clinical simulation laboratory shows that  
6 this approach is embraced by faculty, students, and employers  
7 alike resulting in improved learning outcomes that enhance  
8 patient safety. As such, the initial expenses associated with  
9 simulation are outweighed by the benefits to patients.

10 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to  
11 establish a dedicated network of healthcare workforce simulation  
12 resource laboratories on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and  
13 Hawaii for cross-disciplinary workforce education and training  
14 to improve communication, outcomes, and patient safety to better  
15 meet the needs of Hawaii's population. Once established, the  
16 laboratories will serve as the community focal point for nurse,  
17 physician, emergency response, and other healthcare worker  
18 training and competency certification with operating costs and  
19 staffing to be funded through contracts and fees.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000,000, or so  
22 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and





**Report Title:**

UH; Healthcare Workforce Simulation Resource Laboratories;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to expand and establish healthcare workforce simulation resource laboratories throughout the University of Hawaii system for healthcare workforce development and training.

