

JAN 23 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICINE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is facing a  
2       significant physician shortage as demand for services grows  
3       among the State's aging population and more doctors leave the  
4       workforce. The current shortage is estimated at more than seven  
5       hundred physicians, a statistic that is expected to double by  
6       2020. The neighbor islands in particular face an especially  
7       critical shortage of physicians.

8       The legislature further finds that foreign medical  
9       graduates serve an integral role in the delivery of health care  
10      throughout the country, including filling much-needed physician  
11      positions in health professional shortage areas. Foreign  
12      medical graduates must complete strict training and licensing  
13      requirements prior to licensure in Hawaii.

14      However, the legislature additionally finds that existing  
15      statute has been interpreted to require foreign medical  
16      graduates to pass the Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX),  
17      the United States Medical Licensing Examination, or a



1 combination, in addition to the Education Commission for Foreign  
2 Medical Graduates (ECFMG) qualifying examination prior to 1984.  
3 This requirement has caused some confusion, as the FLEX exam did  
4 not exist prior to 1984 and it therefore would not have been  
5 possible for a foreign medical graduate to take both the FLEX  
6 and the ECFMG examinations prior to 1984. The legislature notes  
7 that clarifying existing law will not compromise the State's  
8 medical qualifications, but will eliminate potential confusion  
9 associated with requirements for licensure of foreign medical  
10 graduates.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this measure is to clarify that  
12 a foreign medical graduate must have passed either:

- 13 (1) The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical  
14 Graduates qualifying examination on or after 1984; or  
15 (2) The Federation Licensing Examination, United States  
16 Medical Licensing Examination, a combination of these  
17 examinations, or the Educational Commission for  
18 Foreign Medical Graduates qualifying examination prior  
19 to 1984.

20 SECTION 2. Section 453-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:



1       **"§453-4.5 Foreign medical graduates; alternative**  
2 **qualifications.** Notwithstanding section 453-4(b)(2)(B), a  
3 graduate of a foreign medical school who [~~has passed the~~]:  
4       (1) Has passed:  
5           (A) The Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX) or  
6           the United States Medical Licensing Examination  
7           (USMLE), or a combination of these examinations  
8           as approved by the board, with scores deemed  
9           satisfactory to the board[~~, passed~~]; or the  
10          qualifying examination of the Educational  
11          Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates prior to  
12          1984[~~, and has~~]; or  
13          (B) The qualifying examination of the Educational  
14          Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates on or  
15          after 1984; and  
16       (2) Has at least three years of medical training or  
17       experience in a hospital approved by the Council on  
18       Medical Education and Hospitals of the American  
19       Medical Association for internship or residency,  
20 may be licensed by the Hawaii medical board under section  
21 453-4(c)."



# S.B. NO. 231

1       SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:           *Reed H Baker*            
                                  *By Request*



# S.B. NO. 231

**Report Title:**

Medicine; Licensure; Foreign Medical Graduates; Alternative Qualifications

**Description:**

Clarifies licensure requirements for foreign medical graduates.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

