
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. According to a November 2016 report by the
2 University of Hawaii, Hawaii loses on average fifty physicians
3 per year due to retirement. It is estimated that there will be
4 a shortage of three hundred to seven hundred physicians by 2020.
5 Within ten years, approximately fifty-two per cent of physicians
6 in the State will be sixty-five years of age or older, which is
7 a common age for retirement.

8 During the 2016-2017 academic year, the John A. Burns
9 school of medicine enrolled a total of two hundred eighty
10 students. Of the approximately two thousand three hundred
11 individuals who applied, only seventy--which is the largest
12 class the school can accommodate without adding faculty or
13 expanding facilities--were accepted into the first-year class.

14 It is imperative that the State attempt to reduce this
15 physician shortfall. Initiatives such as adding faculty or
16 expanding facilities at the John A. Burns school of medicine are
17 costly. However, a less expensive alternative exists:



1 financially assisting Hawaii residents to attend medical school
2 in foreign nations in which the costs of education and living
3 are lower than in Hawaii. Many physicians who currently
4 practice in Hawaii have graduated from foreign medical schools,
5 including those in the Philippines.

6 The college of medicine at the university of Northern
7 Philippines provides an attractive option for Hawaii students
8 who wish to pursue a medical education, which would help to
9 alleviate the growing shortage of practicing physicians in the
10 State. The State of Hawaii and the province of Ilocos Sur in
11 the Philippines have a sister state-province relationship that
12 was established in 1985. Furthermore, the costs of tuition,
13 room and board, and other living expenses in Ilocos Sur are
14 significantly lower than in Hawaii. In addition, foreign
15 students from many other Asian nations attend the college of
16 medicine at the university of Northern Philippines.

17 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
18 health to conduct a study regarding the establishment of a pilot
19 program under which residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of
20 medicine degree at the college of medicine at the university of
21 Northern Philippines in Ilocos Sur, Philippines, with State-



1 provided financial support, in exchange for a commitment to
2 practice medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall conduct a
4 study regarding the establishment of a pilot program under which
5 residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of medicine degree at
6 the college of medicine at the university of Northern
7 Philippines in Ilocos Sur, Philippines, with State-provided
8 financial support, in exchange for a commitment to practice
9 medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

10 (b) The study shall consider the following:

11 (1) What qualifications, including those pertaining
12 to legal residence and academic achievement,
13 individuals shall meet to be eligible to
14 participate in the pilot program; provided that
15 eligibility criteria shall be structured to
16 encourage individuals from throughout Hawaii,
17 particularly rural and underserved areas, to
18 apply to and participate in the pilot program;

19 (2) The amount of financial support to be provided by
20 the State to individuals participating in the



1 pilot program and how such amounts shall be
2 determined;

3 (3) The purposes for which the financial support
4 provided in paragraph (2) may be used; provided
5 that tuition, room and board, and transportation
6 shall be allowable expenses;

7 (4) The required length and any other conditions of
8 an individual's commitment to practice medicine
9 in the State after graduation; provided that
10 individuals shall be:

11 (A) Required to complete their medical
12 internships in the United States; and

13 (B) Strongly encouraged to practice medicine in
14 their home communities in Hawaii;

15 (5) The penalties to be imposed on or reimbursement
16 of financial support to be required of, if any,
17 an individual who fails to:

18 (A) Complete the doctor of medicine degree at
19 the college of medicine at the university of
20 Northern Philippines; or



(B) Meet the required commitment to practice
medicine in Hawaii after graduation;

(6) Any visa and other immigration requirements or
restrictions imposed by the host nation on
individuals participating in the pilot program;

(7) An analysis of the educational equivalency and
accreditation standards of the college of
medicine at the university of Northern
Philippines as compared to medical schools in the
United States; and

(8) Any professional licensing or other requirements
applicable to graduates of foreign medical
schools that need to be met by individuals
participating in the pilot program before they
are authorized to practice medicine in the State.

SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days before
the regular session of 2019.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 health for the purposes of this Act.

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[illegible]

H.B. NO. 2465

Jim Fink
Sen. Clerk
Rep. R. F.

JAN 23 2018



H.B. NO. 2465

Report Title:

Department of Health; Philippine Medical Education; Pilot Program; Study

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to conduct a study regarding a pilot program to pay for Hawaii residents to attend the College of Medicine of the University of Northern Philippines in Ilocos Sur in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawaii after graduation.

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