

JAN 20 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many residents of
2 Hawaii are increasingly unable to obtain timely and appropriate
3 health care due to shortages of primary health care providers in
4 the State. These shortages threaten the health of Hawaii's
5 residents and affect state health care costs. These shortages
6 have pushed the federal government to designate a number of
7 areas in the State, particularly rural areas, as medically
8 underserved areas, health professional shortage areas, or as
9 having medically underserved populations.

10 The legislature further finds that the increasingly high
11 cost of health care professional education requires individuals
12 to seek out the higher incomes that allow them to repay their
13 student loans. However, these higher incomes are usually in
14 specialty care in urban areas, not in the areas of greatest need
15 in Hawaii. Since September 1, 2012, at least sixteen physicians
16 and nurse practitioners have received loan repayment to work in
17 health professional shortage areas in Hawaii and are still



1 serving these communities through a loan repayment program
2 started by the John A. Burns school of medicine. The program
3 was started with private donations and matching federal funding.

4 The purpose of this Act is to fund the Hawaii health corps
5 program under the John A. Burns school of medicine to provide
6 loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse
7 practitioners, psychologists, and social workers who agree to
8 work in a federally designated health professional shortage area
9 or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2018-2019 for the implementation and administration of the
15 Hawaii health corps program.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the John A.
17 Burns school of medicine of the University of Hawaii for the
18 purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.
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INTRODUCED BY:

John H.
Will E.
Hal R.



S.B. NO. 135

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S.B. NO. 735

Report Title:

Hawaii Health Corps Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii health corps program that provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social workers who agree to work in a federally designated health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

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