
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a critical
2 need for recruitment and retention of physicians to serve rural
3 and medically underserved areas of the State. The shortage of
4 physicians is as high as one thousand eight and is compounded by
5 the fact that Hawaii has the fifth oldest physician workforce of
6 all states, and more than half of the State's physicians will be
7 over the age of sixty-five within ten years. The physician
8 workforce assessment project has assisted with malpractice
9 reform, provision of thousands of hours of continuing education,
10 loan repayment for physicians working in areas of need,
11 preparation of local students for medical school, and
12 communication with physicians regarding continuing education.
13 The project is currently working to make regional physician
14 supply and demand maps and all available national data
15 accessible on the Internet, as well as to hire a physician
16 recruiter for all regions of Hawaii.



1 The legislature further finds that future efforts include
2 providing bonuses for providers practicing in underserved areas,
3 the formation of an office of rural training for promoting
4 practice in underserved areas in the State, state-matched loan
5 repayment relief to new providers, and scholarships for medical
6 students who practice in underserved areas. In many cases, the
7 increasingly high cost of education for health care
8 professionals binds graduates to a career path that provides
9 sufficient income to repay costly student loans. These career
10 paths most frequently lead physicians to professional practice
11 in highly specialized fields of care in urban areas rather than
12 in general practice on the neighbor islands or in rural areas of
13 the State where need for their service is greatest. Expanding
14 the use of funding received through the existing physician
15 workforce assessment fees will allow Hawaii to act rapidly to
16 provide tangible solutions for the physician workforce shortage
17 to help address the ongoing need for a strong physician
18 workforce in the State.

19 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 20 (1) Repeal the requirement that no less than
21 fifty per cent of the assessment fees deposited into



1 the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund be
2 used for purposes identified by the Hawaii medical
3 education council;

4 (2) Repeal the monetary cap of expenditures from the
5 John A. Burns school of medicine special fund; and

6 (3) Authorize the John A. Burns school of medicine special
7 fund to provide loan repayment to physicians who
8 commit to working in medically underserved areas of
9 the State as part of the Hawaii state loan repayment
10 program and provide scholarships for qualifying
11 medical students.

12 SECTION 2. Section 304A-2171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

14 "(c) Moneys in the special fund shall be used to support
15 the John A. Burns school of medicine's activities related to
16 physician workforce assessment and planning within Hawaii;
17 provided that [~~ef~~] the physician workforce assessment fees
18 transferred and deposited into the special fund pursuant to
19 section 453-8.8[~~, no less than fifty per cent of the total~~
20 ~~amount of assessment fees deposited~~] shall be used for purposes
21 identified by the Hawaii medical education council to support



1 physician workforce assessment and planning efforts, including
2 the recruitment and retention of physicians, for rural and
3 medically underserved areas of the State[; ~~provided further that~~
4 ~~expenditures from the special fund shall be limited to no more~~
5 ~~than \$245,000 annually~~]. This shall include but not be limited
6 to [maintaining]:

- 7 (1) Maintaining accurate physician workforce assessment
8 information and providing or updating personal and
9 professional information, that shall be maintained in
10 a secure database[~~-~~];
- 11 (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to
12 working in medically underserved areas of the State as
13 part of the Hawaii state loan repayment program
14 administered by the John A. Burns school of medicine;
15 and
- 16 (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying medical students
17 to be determined by the John A. Burns school of
18 medicine.

19 The John A. Burns school of medicine may disclose information
20 specific to any physician only with the express written consent
21 of that physician."



1 SECTION 3. Section 453-8.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§453-8.8 Physician workforce assessment fee; license;
4 physician workforce information.** When a license is renewed,
5 each physician or surgeon and each osteopathic physician or
6 surgeon shall be assessed a fee of \$60 that shall be transferred
7 and deposited into the John A. Burns school of medicine special
8 fund established under section 304A-2171 to support ongoing
9 assessment and planning of the physician workforce in Hawaii,
10 including [~~ongoing~~]:

- 11 (1) Ongoing assessment and planning, as well as the
12 recruitment and retention of physicians, especially
13 for the physician workforce serving rural and
14 medically underserved areas of the State[~~er~~];
- 15 (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to
16 working in medically underserved areas of the State as
17 part of the Hawaii state loan repayment program
18 administered by the John A. Burns school of medicine;
19 and



1 (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying medical students
2 to be determined by the John A. Burns school of
3 medicine.

4 Payment of the physician workforce assessment fee shall be
5 required for license renewal."

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



Report Title:

Physician Workforce Assessment; John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund; Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program; Scholarship

Description:

Repeals the requirement that no less than fifty per cent of the physician workforce assessment fees transferred or deposited into the JABSOM special fund be expended for purposes identified by the Hawaii medical education council to support physician workforce assessment and planning efforts. Repeals the cap on expenditures from the JABSOM special fund. Authorizes funds from the JABSOM special fund to be expended for loan repayments to physicians who commit to working in certain medically underserved areas as part of the Hawaii state loan repayment program and scholarships to qualifying medical students. (CD1)

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