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# 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 the states, and more than half of the State's physicians  
7 will be over the age of sixty-five within ten years. The  
8 physician workforce assessment project has assisted with  
9 malpractice reform, thousands of hours of continuing education,  
10 loan repayment to physicians working in areas of need,  
11 preparation of local students for medical school, communication  
12 with physicians regarding continuing education, and is working  
13 to make regional physician supply and demand maps and all  
14 available national data accessible on the Internet, as well as  
15 hire a physician recruiter for all of Hawaii.

16           The legislature further finds that future efforts include  
17 providing bonuses for providers practicing in underserved areas,



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

16 The purpose of this Act is to:

17 (1) Repeal the requirement that no less than fifty per  
18 cent of the assessment fees deposited into the John A.  
19 Burns school of medicine special fund be used for  
20 purposes identified by the Hawaii medical education  
21 council;



- 1           (2) Repeal the monetary cap of expenditures from the John  
2           A. Burns school of medicine special fund; and
- 3           (3) Authorize the John A Burns school of medicine special  
4           fund to provide loan repayment to physicians who  
5           commit to working in medically underserved areas of  
6           the State as part of the health care provider loan  
7           repayment program and scholarships for qualifying  
8           medical students.

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

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



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1 ~~expenditures from the special fund shall be limited to no more~~  
2 ~~than \$245,000 annually]. This shall include but not be limited~~  
3 ~~to [maintaining]:~~

4       (1) Maintaining accurate physician workforce assessment  
5           information and providing or updating personal and  
6           professional information, that shall be maintained in  
7           a secure database[-];

8       (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to  
9           working in medically underserved areas of the State as  
10          part of the health care provider loan repayment  
11          program administered by the John A. Burns school of  
12          medicine; and

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

16 The John A. Burns school of medicine may disclose information  
17 specific to any physician only with the express written consent  
18 of that physician."

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

1           "§453-8.8 Physician workforce assessment fee; license;  
2 physician workforce information. When a license is renewed,  
3 each physician or surgeon and each osteopathic physician or  
4 surgeon shall be assessed a fee of \$60 that shall be transferred  
5 and deposited into the John A. Burns school of medicine special  
6 fund established under section 304A-2171 to support ongoing  
7 assessment and planning of the physician workforce in Hawaii,  
8 including [~~engoi~~ng]:

9           (1) Ongoing assessment and planning, as well as the  
10 recruitment and retention of physicians, especially  
11 for the physician workforce serving rural and  
12 medically underserved areas of the State[-];

13           (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to  
14 working in medically underserved areas of the State as  
15 part of the health care provider loan repayment  
16 program administered b y the John A. Burns school of  
17 medicine; and

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



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1 Payment of the physician workforce assessment fee shall be  
2 required for license renewal."

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

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Rossly H. Baker*



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**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Repeals the requirement that no less than fifty per cent of the physician workforce assessment fees deposited into the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund be used for purposes identified by the Hawaii medical education council. Repeals the monetary cap of expenditures from the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund. Authorizes the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund to provide loan repayment to certain physicians and scholarships to qualifying medical students.

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

