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



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

19 The purpose of this Act is to:

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



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

4 (2) Repeal the monetary cap of expenditures from the John
5 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 health care provider loan
10 repayment program and 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 ~~[e]f~~ 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 repayments to physicians who commit to
 12 working in medically underserved areas of the State as
 13 part of the health care provider loan repayment
 14 program administered by the John A. Burns school of
 15 medicine; 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[~~+~~];

15 (2) Providing loan repayments to physicians who commit to
16 working in medically underserved areas of the State as
17 part of the health care provider loan repayment
18 program administered by the John A. Burns school of
19 medicine; 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, 2050.



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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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