S.B. NO. 517

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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

1   SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, as a result of the

2   novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), many healthcare facilities

3   experienced unprecedented staffing shortages as staff members

4   became sick or were dedicated to COVID-19 treatment units and

5   therefore unavailable for other types of duties.

6   The legislature additionally finds that this staffing

7   shortage increased burdens on patients, other workers, and the

8   healthcare system and could be alleviated in the future by

9   investing in the healthcare workforce pipeline.

10   The legislature also finds that, according to the

11   Healthcare Association of Hawaii's 2019 Hawaii Healthcare

12   Workforce Initiative Report, there were two thousand two hundred

13   unfilled non-physician healthcare jobs across the State. The

14   professions with the highest demand include many entry-level

15   fields such as medical assistants, nurse aides, patient service

16   representatives, and phlebotomists. Open positions in these

17   fields take, on average, between six and twelve months to fill.

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1   The legislature further finds that healthcare educational

2   programs in high schools and community colleges that offer

3   healthcare training and certifications have been a success.

4   These programs expose students to the career possibilities

5   within healthcare at a young age, allowing certain students to

6   receive healthcare credentials, hands-on training, and college

7   credits that enable many participants to begin their careers in

8   entry-level positions that pay well above minimum wage.

9   Existing educational programs, such as high school health

10   academies or certain pipeline programs at community colleges,

11   can serve as a template for efforts to expand and enhance the

12   State's healthcare workforce pipeline.

13   The legislature further finds that the pandemic created a

14   difficult economic environment for the State. While not every

15   displaced or newly employable worker can enter into healthcare,

16   it is a viable field for many in the State to help fill the

17   State's healthcare shortages. This is an opportunity to support

18   local jobs and educational opportunities in a field that needs

19   eligible workers.

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1   The purpose of this Act is to establish a public-private

2 partnership to develop and increase the healthcare workforce in

3 the State.

4   SECTION 2.   Chapter 202, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

5 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately

6 designated and to read as follows:

7   "**§202-A   Healthcare workforce development; public-private**

8 **partnership.**   (a)   The workforce development council shall

9 implement and manage a public-private partnership to develop and

10 increase the healthcare workforce in the State.   Subject to

11 available funds, the public-private partnership shall:

12   (1)   Expand the number of high schools and community

13   colleges that have programs that facilitate students'

14   entry into the healthcare profession;

15   (2)   Employ a program coordinator to track which high

16   schools and community colleges offer healthcare career

17   path programs and employment opportunities;

18   (3)   Recruit additional clinical training instructors from

19   community college faculty, department of education

20   faculty, and private industry;

1   (4) Purchase clinical equipment and supplies necessary for

2   classroom instruction;

3   (5) Purchase software to track and match students with

4   clinical training opportunities necessary for their

5   education and certifications;

6   (6) Provide scholarships for Native Hawaiian and other

7   minority students who are underrepresented in the

8   healthcare industry;

9   (7) Offer paid internship programs to ease the transition

10   to employment in the healthcare industry after

11   graduation;

12   (8) Provide transportation and other supports necessary to

13   ensure equitable access to educational, training, and

14   internship opportunities; and

15   (9) Expand offerings at community colleges that put

16   students into a direct workforce pipeline.

17   **§202-B   Healthcare workforce development special fund;**

18 **established.**   There is established outside of the state treasury

19 the healthcare workforce development special fund to be

20 administered by the workforce development council, to implement

21 and manage the public-private partnership established pursuant

1 <u>to section 202-A. The fund shall consist of appropriations from</u>

2 <u>federal, state, and local governments and contributions from</u>

3 <u>private entities.</u>"

4   SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the healthcare

5 workforce development special fund the sum of $ or so

6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and

7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal

8 year 2022-2023 to implement and manage a public-private

9 partnership to develop and increase the healthcare workforce in

10 the State.

11   The sums appropriated shall be expended by the workforce

12 development council for the purposes of this Act.

13   SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section

14 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute

15 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating

16 the new sections in this Act.

17   SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

18   SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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      INTRODUCED BY: _____

Report Title:
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Healthcare
Workforce Development; Workforce Development Council

Description:
Requires the workforce development council to implement and
manage a public-private partnership to develop and increase the
healthcare workforce in the State.

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