

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many Hawaii
2 residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate health
3 care due to a shortage of health care providers in the State.
4 The ongoing shortage threatens individual health and may pose
5 adverse effects to the State's health care costs. The neighbor
6 islands, which have been designated by the federal government as
7 medically underserved areas, have been disproportionately
8 adversely affected by shortages of physicians in all areas of
9 practice. The John A. Burns school of medicine has engaged in
10 strategies to increase the numbers of physicians in Hawaii,
11 including, among other endeavors:

- 12 (1) Enrolling more students each year;
- 13 (2) Rotating medical students to the neighbor islands for
14 preclinical rotations for up to twelve weeks;
- 15 (3) Developing longitudinal third-year rotation sites
16 where a small number of students are in the same
17 location for five months;



1 (4) Developing a small number of sites for four-week
2 fourth-year clinical rotations;

3 (5) Developing residency or fellowship rotations on
4 neighbor islands; and

5 (6) Administering the state's loan repayment program that
6 places recipients in underserved communities,
7 especially the neighbor islands.

8 Current physician workforce data indicate that Hawaii has a
9 shortage of about seven hundred fifty doctors when compared to
10 the general United States physician-patient ratios of a similar
11 demographic population. Primary care, internal medicine, and
12 some specialty physician shortages represent Hawaii's greatest
13 area of need. Without these physicians, the people of Hawaii do
14 not have access to the health care they need.

15 At the John A. Burns school of medicine, research suggests
16 that if graduates complete their medical school and residency
17 training in Hawaii, about eighty per cent of those physicians
18 remain in Hawaii to practice. Medical residents who train on
19 the neighbor islands are more likely to subsequently practice on
20 the neighbor islands. Expanding capacity for year-round
21 neighbor island medical education training will create a



1 pipeline of new physicians positioned to initiate a neighbor
2 island practice. With a fully developed neighbor islands
3 program, it will be possible to expand the State's neighbor
4 island primary care family medicine, internal medicine, and some
5 specialty residencies.

6 In Hawaii, graduate medical costs are largely borne by the
7 University of Hawaii and its affiliated health systems.
8 Although some federal funding has been used by the health
9 systems to cover a portion of the costs, there are areas where
10 the State can invest and expand medical education training using
11 the newly available American Rescue Plan Act funding.

12 Current primary care residencies hosted in Hawaii's health
13 systems on the neighbor islands would be leveraged for expansion
14 of medical education training. The logistics of expanding
15 residency training to the neighbor islands require that
16 dedicated teaching faculty be hired to deliver and lead medical
17 education and training. Funding is also required for student
18 and resident support, including travel, housing, and other
19 coordinated activities across all sites.

20 The legislature further finds that considerable public
21 outcomes achieved by expanding capacity for training medical



1 students on the neighbor island with the goal of having these
2 students ultimately remain in Hawaii to practice. Continuation
3 of funding for medical education is vital in addressing the
4 physician shortage in Hawaii.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
6 to the John A. Burns school of medicine to expand medical
7 education and training to the neighbor islands.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,700,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
11 creation of additional medical residencies and training
12 opportunities for medical students on the neighbor islands.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
14 Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns school of medicine for the
15 purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.
17

INTRODUCED BY:  _____



S.B. NO. 2657

Report Title:

Medical Residencies and Training; John A. Burns School of Medicine; University of Hawaii; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to create more residencies and training opportunities on the neighbor islands for medical students at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

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