
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
5 adversely affect 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 at the
10 University of Hawaii at Manoa has engaged in strategies to
11 increase the numbers of physicians in Hawaii, including, among
12 other endeavors:

- 13 (1) Enrolling more students each year;
- 14 (2) Rotating medical students to the neighbor islands for
15 preclinical rotations up to twelve weeks;
- 16 (3) Developing longitudinal third-year rotation sites
17 where a small number of students are in the same
18 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 Hawaii state loan repayment program
6 that places recipients in underserved communities,
7 especially the neighbor islands.

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

16 Research from the John A. Burns school of medicine suggests
17 that about eighty per cent of graduates who complete their
18 medical school and residency training in Hawaii, remain in the
19 State to practice. Medical residents who train on the neighbor
20 islands are more likely to subsequently practice on the neighbor
21 islands. Expanding capacity for year-round medical education



1 training will create a pipeline of new physicians positioned to
2 initiate neighbor island practices. With a fully developed
3 program that focuses on medically underserved areas such as the
4 neighbor islands, it will be possible to expand the State's
5 primary care family medicine, internal medicine, and some
6 specialty residencies.

7 In Hawaii, graduate medical costs are largely borne by the
8 University of Hawaii and its affiliated health systems.

9 Although some federal funding has been used by the health
10 systems to cover a portion of these costs, there are areas where
11 the State can invest and expand medical education and training
12 using the newly available American Rescue Plan Act funding.

13 Current primary care residencies hosted in Hawaii's health
14 systems on the neighbor islands could be leveraged to expand
15 medical education and training, which would require the hiring
16 of dedicated teaching faculty. Funding is also required for
17 student and resident support, including travel, housing, and
18 other coordinated activities across all sites.

19 The legislature recognizes that ongoing funding of medical
20 education is vital to address the physician shortage in Hawaii.
21 Considerable public outcomes can be achieved by expanding



1 capacity for training medical students with the goal of having
2 these students ultimately remain in Hawaii to practice.
3 Providing funds for medical education is vital to address the
4 physician shortage in Hawaii.

5 In addition, there is strong collaboration between the John
6 A. Burns school of medicine and the United States Department of
7 Veterans Affairs. The United States Department of Veterans
8 Affairs health system currently invests in Hawaii-based
9 residency positions using a separate federal pool of resources
10 for support. With additional faculty members, the capacity to
11 train additional Hawaii-based residents through the Department
12 of Veterans Affairs graduate medical education program will
13 enable the John A. Burns school of medicine to expand the number
14 of residency rotations and create new training opportunities.

15 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

16 (1) Appropriate funds to the John A. Burns school of
17 medicine to expand medical education and training in
18 Hawaii, with an emphasis on supporting residency
19 training on the neighbor islands and in medically
20 underserved populations throughout the State; and



1 (2) Appropriate funds to the John A. Burns school of
2 medicine to create further medical residency and
3 training opportunities through a partnership between
4 the John A. Burns school of medicine and the United
5 States Department of Veterans Affairs.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,700,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
9 creation of additional medical residencies and training
10 opportunities for medical students in counties with populations
11 of five hundred thousand or less.

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

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
18 expansion of medical residency and training opportunities in
19 partnership with the United States Department of Veterans
20 Affairs.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
2 Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns school of medicine for the
3 purposes of this Act.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to create further medical residency and training opportunities through a partnership between the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
(CD1)

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