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# 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;



- 1       (3)   Developing longitudinal third-year rotation sites  
2           where a small number of students are in the same  
3           location for five months;
- 4       (4)   Developing a small number of sites for four-week  
5           fourth-year clinical rotations;
- 6       (5)   Developing residency or fellowship rotations on  
7           neighbor islands; and
- 8       (6)   Administering the Hawaii state loan repayment program  
9           that places recipients in underserved communities,  
10          especially the neighbor islands.

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

19       Research from the John A. Burns school of medicine suggests  
20   that about eighty per cent of graduates who complete their  
21   medical school and residency training in Hawaii, remain in the



1 State to practice. Medical residents who train on the neighbor  
2 islands are more likely to subsequently practice on the neighbor  
3 islands. Expanding capacity for year-round medical education  
4 training will create a pipeline of new physicians positioned to  
5 initiate neighbor island practices. With a fully developed  
6 program that focuses on medically underserved areas such as the  
7 neighbor islands, it will be possible to expand the State's  
8 primary care family medicine, internal medicine, and some  
9 specialty residencies.

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

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



1       The legislature recognizes that ongoing funding of medical  
2 education is vital to address the physician shortage in Hawaii.  
3 Considerable public outcomes can be achieved by expanding  
4 capacity for training medical students with the goal of having  
5 these students ultimately remain in Hawaii to practice. One way  
6 to promote this outcome is to reestablish the Hawaii medical  
7 education special fund as a means of funding graduate medical  
8 education and training programs to support an expansion of key  
9 positions. Furthermore, providing funds for medical education  
10 is vital to address the physician shortage in Hawaii.

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

21       Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Reestablish the Hawaii medical education council  
2 special fund to enable the John A. Burns school of  
3 medicine, in consultation with the Hawaii medical  
4 education council, to provide funding for medical  
5 education and training in Hawaii;
- 6 (2) Appropriate funds to the John A. Burns school of  
7 medicine to expand medical education and training in  
8 Hawaii, with an emphasis on supporting residency  
9 training on the neighbor islands and in medically  
10 underserved populations throughout the State; and
- 11 (3) Appropriate funds to the John A. Burns school of  
12 medicine to create further medical residency and  
13 training opportunities through a partnership between  
14 the John A. Burns school of medicine and the United  
15 States Department of Veterans Affairs.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to subpart C of part V to be  
18 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

19 "§304A- Hawaii medical education special fund. (a)

20 There is established in the state treasury a Hawaii medical



1 education special fund, into which shall be deposited all moneys  
2 received by the medical education council, including:

3       (1) Moneys from the federal Centers for Medicare and

4       Medicaid Services and other federal agencies;

5       (2) Appropriations made by the legislature; and

6       (3) Grants, contracts, donations, and private

7       contributions.

8       (b) The fund shall be administered by the John A. Burns  
9 school of medicine. Moneys deposited in the fund shall be  
10 expended by the John A. Burns school of medicine for the  
11 purposes of the graduate medical education and training programs  
12 established under this chapter."

13       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
16 the creation of additional medical residencies and training  
17 opportunities for medical students in counties with populations  
18 of five hundred thousand or less.

19       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
20 Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns school of medicine for the  
21 purposes of this Act.



1       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
4 the expansion of medical residency and training opportunities in  
5 partnership with the United States Department of Veterans  
6 Affairs.

7       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
8 Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns school of medicine for the  
9 purposes of this Act.

10       SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

11       SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



**Report Title:**

UH; Medical Residencies and Training; John A. Burns School of Medicine; Hawaii Medical Education Council Special Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Reestablishes the Hawaii medical education council special fund to enable the John A. Burns School of Medicine, in consultation with the Hawaii Medical Education Council, to provide funding for medical education and training in Hawaii, with an emphasis on supporting residency training in medically underserved areas. Appropriates funds to create more residencies and training opportunities in medically underserved areas for medical students at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. 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. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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