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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 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           Research from the John A. Burns school of medicine 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 medical  
21 education training will create a pipeline of new physicians



1 positioned to initiate a neighbor island practice. With a fully  
2 developed program, that focuses on medically underserved areas  
3 such as on the neighbor islands, it will be possible to expand  
4 the State's primary care family medicine, internal medicine, and  
5 some 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 and training  
11 using the newly available American Rescue Plan Act funding.

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

18 The legislature recognizes that ongoing funding of medical  
19 education is vital in addressing the physician shortage in  
20 Hawaii. Considerable public outcomes can be achieved by  
21 expanding capacity for training medical students with the goal



1 of having these students ultimately remain in Hawaii to  
2 practice. One way to promote this outcome is to reestablish the  
3 Hawaii medical education special fund as a means of funding  
4 graduate medical education and training programs to support an  
5 expansion of key positions. Furthermore, providing funds for  
6 medical education is vital in addressing the physician shortage  
7 in Hawaii.

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

17 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

18 (1) Reestablish the Hawaii medical education council  
19 special fund to enable the John A. Burns school of  
20 medicine, in consultation with the Hawaii medical



1 education council, to provide funding for medical  
2 education and training in Hawaii;

3 (2) Appropriate funds to the John A. Burns school of  
4 medicine to expand medical education and training in  
5 Hawaii, with an emphasis on supporting residency  
6 training on the neighbor islands and in medically  
7 underserved populations throughout the State; and

8 (3) Appropriate funds to the John A. Burns school of  
9 medicine to create further medical residency and  
10 training opportunities through a partnership between  
11 the John A. Burns school of medicine and the Veterans  
12 Administration.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
15 and to read as follows:

16 "§304A- Hawaii medical education special fund. There is  
17 established in the state treasury a Hawaii medical education  
18 special fund, into which shall be deposited all funds received  
19 by the medical education council, including:

20 (1) Moneys from the federal Centers for Medicaid and  
21 Medicare Services and other federal agencies;



- 1       (2) Appropriations made by the legislature; and
- 2       (3) Grants, contracts, donations, and private
- 3       contributions.

4       The fund shall be administered by the John A. Burns school  
5 of medicine. Moneys deposited in the fund shall be expended by  
6 the John A. Burns school of medicine for the purposes of the  
7 graduate medical education and training programs established  
8 under this chapter."

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

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

18           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for



1 the expansion of medical residency and training opportunities in  
2 partnership with the Veterans Administration.

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

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Medical Residencies and Training; John A. Burns School of Medicine; University of Hawaii; 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 Veterans Administration. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

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