
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.

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 shortages of health care providers in the State.
4 These shortages threaten individual health and cumulatively
5 adversely affect the State's health care costs. The State's
6 neighbor islands, which have been designated by the federal
7 government as medically underserved areas, have been
8 disproportionately adversely affected by shortages of physicians
9 in all areas of practice. The John A. Burns school of medicine
10 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has engaged in strategies
11 to increase the number of physicians in Hawaii by enrolling more
12 students; rotating medical students to the neighbor islands for
13 preclinical, up to twelve-week, rotations; developing
14 longitudinal third-year rotation sites where a small number of
15 students are in the same location for five months; developing a
16 small number of sites for four-week fourth year clinical
17 rotations; developing residency or fellowship rotations; and



1 administering the Hawaii state loan repayment program that
2 places recipients in medically underserved communities,
3 especially the neighbor islands, among other endeavors.

4 The legislature further finds that, according to the most
5 recent data from the Hawaii physician workforce assessment
6 project, the State has a shortage of five hundred thirty-seven
7 full-time equivalent physicians. However, when island geography
8 and unmet specialty-specific needs by county are examined, the
9 estimated unmet need for full-time physicians increases to seven
10 hundred thirty-two. Primary care, internal medicine, and some
11 specialty physician shortages represent Hawaii's greatest area
12 of need. Without these physicians, the people of Hawaii do not
13 have access to the health care they need. At the John A. Burns
14 school of medicine, eighty per cent of graduates who complete
15 their medical school and residency training, also known as their
16 graduate medical education, in the State remain in Hawaii to
17 practice.

18 The legislature also finds that medical residents who train
19 on the neighbor islands are more likely to remain and
20 subsequently practice on the neighbor islands. Expanding
21 capacity for year-round neighbor island graduate medical



1 education will therefore create a pipeline of new physicians
2 positioned to initiate neighbor island practices. With a fully
3 developed graduate medical education program for the neighbor
4 islands, it will be possible to expand the State's neighbor
5 island primary care, family medicine, internal medicine, and
6 some specialty residencies. Current primary care residencies
7 hosted in health systems on the neighbor islands would be
8 leveraged for expansion of graduate medical education. The
9 logistics of expanding medical school and residency training to
10 the neighbor islands require that dedicated teaching faculty be
11 hired to deliver and lead medical school and residency training.
12 Funding is also required for student and resident support,
13 including travel, housing, and other coordinated activities
14 across all sites.

15 The legislature notes that in Hawaii, graduate medical
16 education costs are largely borne by the University of Hawaii
17 and its affiliated health systems. Although some federal
18 dollars have been used by the health systems to cover a portion
19 of graduate medical education costs, the State can invest and
20 expand medical school and residency training using newly
21 available American Rescue Plan Act money.



1 The legislature also recognizes the beneficial public
2 outcomes that can be achieved by expanding capacity for training
3 medical students and residents on the neighbor islands with the
4 goal of having these students and residents ultimately remain in
5 Hawaii to practice. The legislature also recognizes that
6 ongoing funding of graduate medical education is vital to
7 address the physician shortage in the State.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
9 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine to expand
10 graduate medical education programs to the neighbor islands.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
14 the expansion of graduate medical education programs to the
15 neighbor islands.

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

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.

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H.B. NO. 1547
H.D. 1

Report Title:

John A. Burns School of Medicine; Medical School and Residency Training; Graduate Medical Education; Neighbor Islands; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to expand graduate medical education programs on the neighbor islands. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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