
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 there is strong
19 collaboration between the John A. Burns school of medicine and
20 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The
21 Department of Veterans Affairs currently invests in Hawaii-based



1 residency positions using a separate federal pool of support.
2 With additional faculty members, the capacity to train
3 additional Hawaii-based residents through the Department of
4 Veterans Affairs graduate medical education programs will enable
5 the John A. Burns school of medicine to expand the number of
6 residency rotations and create new training opportunities.

7 In Hawaii, graduate medical education costs are largely
8 borne by the University of Hawaii and its affiliated health
9 systems. Although some federal dollars have been used by the
10 health systems to cover a portion of graduate medical education
11 costs, the State can invest and expand medical school and
12 residency training using newly available funds from the American
13 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2.

14 The legislature also recognizes the beneficial public
15 outcomes that can be achieved by expanding capacity for training
16 medical students and residents through the Department of
17 Veterans Affairs, including the recruitment of additional
18 practicing faculty to Veterans Affairs health care facilities in
19 the State, which will leverage health care delivery capacity and
20 the retention of medical students and residents as practicing
21 physicians in Hawaii.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
2 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine to expand
3 medical school and residency training through the Department of
4 Veterans Affairs graduate medical education programs.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
8 the expansion of medical school and residency training through
9 the Department of Veterans Affairs graduate medical education
10 programs.

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

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

John A. Burns School of Medicine; Department of Veterans Affairs; Medical School and Residency Training; Graduate Medical Education; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to expand medical school and residency training through the Department of Veterans Affairs graduate medical education programs. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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