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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND.

**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 John A.  
6 Burns school of medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa  
7 has engaged in strategies to increase the number of physicians  
8 in Hawaii by enrolling more students; rotating medical students  
9 to the neighbor islands for preclinical, up to twelve-week,  
10 rotations; developing longitudinal third-year rotation sites  
11 where a small number of students are in the same location for  
12 five months; developing a small number of sites for four-week  
13 fourth year clinical rotations; developing residency or  
14 fellowship rotations; and administering the Hawaii state loan  
15 repayment program that places recipients in medically  
16 underserved communities, especially the neighbor islands, among  
17 other endeavors.



1           The legislature also finds that current physician workforce  
2 data indicates that Hawaii has a shortage of about seven hundred  
3 fifty physicians when compared to general United States  
4 physician-patient ratios of a similar demographic population.  
5 Primary care, internal medicine, and some specialty physician  
6 shortages represent Hawaii's greatest area of need. Without  
7 these physicians, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the  
8 health care they need. At the John A. Burns school of medicine,  
9 eighty per cent of graduates who complete their medical school  
10 and residency training, also known as their graduate medical  
11 education, in the State remain in Hawaii to practice.

12           In Hawaii, graduate medical education costs are largely  
13 borne by the University of Hawaii and its affiliated health  
14 systems. Although some federal dollars have been used by the  
15 health systems to cover a portion of graduate medical education  
16 costs, the State can invest and expand medical school and  
17 residency training using newly available funds from the American  
18 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2.

19           The legislature finds that the Hawaii medical education  
20 council is tasked with overseeing the State's graduate medical  
21 education programs and the programs' ability to meet Hawaii's



1 health care workforce requirements. The Hawaii medical  
2 education council must also ensure adequate funding of health  
3 care training programs, in particular graduate medical  
4 education. According to the Hawaii medical education council's  
5 2022 report to the legislature, graduate medical education  
6 programs, especially those in primary care, geriatrics,  
7 psychiatry (adults and children), and addiction, serve a high  
8 proportion of the most vulnerable populations. Yet there has  
9 been a reduction in overall graduate medical education positions  
10 in the State, from two hundred forty-one positions in 2009 to  
11 two hundred thirty positions in 2021. The legislature further  
12 finds that nationally, Hawaii is in the bottom quintile for  
13 graduate medical education positions per population. Decreased  
14 federal and state funding have also had a significant impact on  
15 the number of available training positions.

16 The legislature recognizes that ongoing funding of graduate  
17 medical education is vital to address the physician shortage in  
18 the State. The legislature also recognizes the beneficial  
19 public outcomes that can be achieved by expanding capacity for  
20 training medical students on the neighbor islands, with the goal



1 of having these students ultimately remain in Hawaii to  
2 practice.

3 Finally, the legislature finds that reestablishing the  
4 Hawaii medical education special fund, to be utilized as a means  
5 of funding graduate medical education and training, is a key  
6 component that will support the expansion of graduate medical  
7 education positions.

8 The purpose of this Act is to reestablish the Hawaii  
9 medical education special fund to enable the John A. Burns  
10 school of medicine, in consultation with the Hawaii medical  
11 education council, to provide funding for graduate medical  
12 education and training in the State, with an emphasis on  
13 supporting residency training on the neighbor islands and in  
14 medically underserved populations throughout the State.

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

18 "§304A- Hawaii medical education special fund. (a)  
19 There is established within the state treasury the Hawaii  
20 medical education special fund to be administered by the



1 John A. Burns school of medicine and into which shall be  
2 deposited all moneys received by the council, including:

3       (1) Moneys from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
4       Services or other federal agencies;

5       (2) Appropriations made by the legislature to the special  
6       fund;

7       (3) Grants provided by governmental agencies or any other  
8       source;

9       (4) Moneys directed to the special fund from contracts;  
10       (5) Donations and contributions made by private  
11       individuals or organizations for deposit into the  
12       special fund;

13       (6) Interest accrued on all amounts in the special fund;  
14       and

15       (7) Any other moneys made available to the special fund  
16       from other sources.

17       (b) Moneys from the Hawaii medical education special fund  
18 shall be expended by the John A. Burns school of medicine and  
19 shall be used for graduate medical education and training  
20 programs established under this chapter."



- 1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund; John A. Burns School of Medicine; Graduate Medical Education and Training

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund to be administered by the John A. Burns School of Medicine for graduate medical education and training programs. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

