

JAN 21 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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 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           In Hawaii, graduate medical costs are largely borne by the  
16 University of Hawaii and its affiliated health systems.  
17 Although some federal funding has been used by the health  
18 systems to cover a portion of the costs, there are areas where  
19 the State can invest and expand medical education training using  
20 the newly available American Rescue Plan Act funding.



1           The Hawaii medical education council is tasked with  
2           overseeing the State's graduate medical education programs and  
3           their ability to meet the health care workforce requirements.  
4           Additionally, the Hawaii medical education council must ensure  
5           the adequate funding of health care training programs, including  
6           graduate medical programs. According to the Hawaii medical  
7           education council's 2022 report to the legislature, graduate  
8           medical education programs, especially those in primary care,  
9           geriatrics, psychiatry, and addiction, serve a high proportion  
10          of the most vulnerable populations. However, there has been a  
11          reduction in the overall graduate medical education positions in  
12          Hawaii from two hundred forty-one in 2009 to two hundred thirty  
13          in 2021. Nationally, Hawaii is in the bottom quintile of the  
14          graduate medical education positions per population. Decreased  
15          federal and state funding have had a significant impact on the  
16          number of available training positions.

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



1 ultimately remain in Hawaii to practice. One way to promote  
2 this outcome is to reestablish the Hawaii medical education  
3 special fund as a means of funding graduate medical education  
4 and training programs to support an expansion of key positions.

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

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

15 "§304A- Hawaii medical education special fund. There is  
16 established in the state treasury a Hawaii medical education  
17 special fund, into which shall be deposited all funds received  
18 by the medical education council, including:

- 19 (1) Moneys from the federal Centers for Medicaid and  
20 Medicare Services and other federal agencies;  
21 (2) Appropriations made by the legislature; and




1        (3) Grants, contracts, donations, and private  
2                    contributions.

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

8        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:  \_\_\_\_\_



# S.B. NO. 2655

**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Reestablishes the Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund.

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

