

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 187, Session
2 Laws of Hawaii 2012, established the Hawaii health corps program
3 as a means of addressing the State's longstanding health care
4 provider shortage. This program is aimed at increasing Hawaii
5 residents' ability to obtain timely medical services by
6 incentivizing family physicians, physician assistants, and nurse
7 practitioners to provide medical services in underserved and
8 rural areas in the State in return for repayment of loans.

9 The legislature further finds that because of the impact of
10 the "SARS-CoV-2" virus, there is an increased need across the
11 State for the services provided by social workers and
12 psychologists. However, under the current Hawaii health corps
13 program, social workers and psychologists are ineligible to
14 participate.

15 The purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Expand the Hawaii rural health care provider repayment
- 2 program to include eligible social workers and
- 3 psychologists;
- 4 (2) Make the department of health responsible for
- 5 administration of the Hawaii rural health care
- 6 provider repayment program; and
- 7 (3) Make an appropriation for the Hawaii rural health care
- 8 provider repayment program.

9 SECTION 2. Section 309H-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
11 inserted and to read as follows:

12 "Psychologist" means a person licensed as a psychologist
13 under chapter 465.

14 "Social worker" means a person licensed as a social worker
15 under chapter 467E."

16 SECTION 3. Section 309H-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 **"§309H-2 Hawaii health corps program established.** The
19 Hawaii health corps program is established to encourage
20 physicians, physicians assistants, psychologists, social
21 workers, and nurse practitioners to serve in counties having a



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1 shortage of physicians, physician assistants, psychologists,
2 social workers, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to
3 a rural area county. The Hawaii health corps program shall be
4 administered by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of
5 medicine [~~and the~~], University of Hawaii at Manoa school of
6 nursing and dental hygiene[-], and University of Hawaii at Manoa
7 Thompson school of social work and public health. In
8 administering the program, the University of Hawaii John A.
9 Burns school of medicine [~~and the~~], University of Hawaii at
10 Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene, and University of
11 Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of social work and public health
12 shall:

- 13 (1) Adopt rules and develop guidelines to administer the
14 program;
- 15 (2) Identify and designate areas of the counties where
16 there is a shortage of physicians, physician
17 assistants, psychologists, social workers, and nurse
18 practitioners;
- 19 (3) Establish criteria for the selection by the University
20 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine of
21 physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, and



1 nurse practitioners and by the University of Hawaii at
2 Manoa Thompson school of social work and public health
3 of social workers to participate in the Hawaii rural
4 health care provider loan repayment program;

5 (4) Define and determine compliance with the service
6 commitments of the Hawaii rural health care provider
7 loan repayment program;

8 (5) Collect and manage reimbursements from participants
9 who do not meet their service commitments under the
10 Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment
11 program;

12 (6) Publicize the program, particularly to maximize
13 participation by individuals who live in areas of a
14 county where there is a shortage of physicians,
15 physician assistants, psychologists, social workers,
16 and nurse practitioners;

17 (7) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public
18 and private sources for the Hawaii rural health care
19 provider loan repayment program, including maximizing
20 the use of federal matching funds; and



1 (8) Establish criteria and procedures for calling Hawaii
2 health corps program participants into service during
3 an emergency or disaster."

4 SECTION 4. Section 309H-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "[~~§~~309H-3~~]~~ **Hawaii rural health care provider loan**
7 **repayment program.** (a) There is created within the Hawaii
8 health corps program, the Hawaii rural health care provider loan
9 repayment program to be administered by the [~~University of~~
10 ~~Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of~~
11 ~~Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene]~~ department
12 of health in partnership with a lending financial institution
13 whose operations are principally conducted in Hawaii. The
14 Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program shall
15 provide loan repayments to eligible physicians, physician
16 assistants, psychologists, social workers, and nurse
17 practitioners who make the service commitment under subsection
18 (b). The [~~University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine~~
19 ~~and the University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and~~
20 ~~dental hygiene]~~ department of health shall work with the
21 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine,



1 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental
2 hygiene, and University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of
3 social work and public health to identify loan payment amounts
4 and loan repayment program recipients. The department of health
5 shall make loan repayments directly to the financial institution
6 under subsection (b) to offset the loan repayment for which the
7 Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program
8 recipient would otherwise be liable. Loan repayments shall
9 commence upon the commencement of loan repayments by the Hawaii
10 rural health care provider loan repayment program recipient to
11 the lending financial institution. The [~~University of Hawaii~~
12 ~~John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of Hawaii at~~
13 ~~Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene] department of health
14 shall prioritize loan repayments in accordance with the greatest
15 specialty shortages for the particular county.~~

16 (b) The Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment
17 program shall provide loan repayments on behalf of licensed
18 physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers,
19 and nurse practitioners who agree to serve for five consecutive
20 years as a physician, physician assistant, psychologist, social
21 worker, or nurse practitioner in a county having a shortage of



1 physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers,
2 and nurse practitioners, with priority given to a rural area of
3 that particular county; provided that eligible physicians,
4 physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, or nurse
5 practitioners[~~as applicable,~~] shall have graduated from a duly
6 accredited medical school or nursing school within the United
7 States[+] or received a degree in social work from an accredited
8 university or college within the United States, as applicable;
9 provided further that preference shall be given to graduates of
10 the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine [~~or~~
11 ~~the~~], University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental
12 hygiene, or University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of
13 social work and public health, as applicable.

14 (c) Eligible participants in the Hawaii rural health care
15 provider loan [+]repayment[+] program shall be determined by the
16 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine [~~and the~~],
17 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental
18 hygiene, and University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of
19 social work and public health on a competitive basis and in
20 accordance with subsection (b).



1 (d) If a Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment
2 program participant fails to satisfy the recipient's service
3 commitment under subsection (b), the Hawaii rural health care
4 provider loan repayment program participant shall be liable for
5 the repayment of the outstanding balance of the loan to the
6 lending financial institution under subsection (b). In
7 addition, the [~~University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of~~
8 ~~medicine and the University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing~~
9 ~~and dental hygiene]~~ department of health may seek reimbursement
10 for any loan repayment made by the [~~University of Hawaii John A.~~
11 ~~Burns school of medicine and the University of Hawaii at Manoa~~
12 ~~school of nursing and dental hygiene]~~ department of health on
13 behalf of the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment
14 program participant.

15 (e) In accordance with chapter 103D, the [~~University of~~
16 ~~Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of~~
17 ~~Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene]~~ department
18 of health may enter into written contracts with collection
19 agencies to collect delinquent reimbursements of loan
20 repayments. All payments collected, exclusive of a collection
21 agency's commissions, shall revert and be credited to the Hawaii



1 health corps fund. A collection agency that enters into a
2 written contract with the [~~University of Hawaii John A. Burns~~
3 ~~school of medicine and the University of Hawaii at Manoa school~~
4 ~~of nursing and dental hygiene~~] department of health to collect
5 delinquent reimbursements of loan repayments pursuant to this
6 section may collect a commission from the debtor in accordance
7 with the terms of, and up to the amounts authorized in, the
8 written contract."

9 SECTION 5. Section 309H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§309H-4 Hawaii health corps first responder service**
12 **obligation.** If an emergency or disaster proclaimed under
13 chapter 127A occurs, physicians, physician assistants,
14 psychologists, social workers, and nurse practitioners
15 participating in the Hawaii health corps program may be ordered
16 into service by the governor as first responders to serve in
17 areas of the State and in a capacity determined by the director
18 of health."

19 SECTION 6. Section 309H-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended to read as follows:



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Report Title:

Hawaii Health Corps Program; Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program; Psychologists; Social Workers; Appropriation

Description:

Expands the Hawaii health corps program and Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program to include incentives for psychologists and social workers. Makes the department of health responsible for administering the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program. Appropriates funds.

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

