

JAN 24 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARIANS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need for
2 more licensed veterinarians in the State. Specifically, as of
3 2020, only about three hundred twenty veterinarians were working
4 in Hawaii. This number is expected to grow by only about 1.6
5 per cent each year through 2030, which is not enough to meet the
6 State's growing demand for veterinarians.

7 The legislature further finds that there are a number of
8 issues that limit the potential to increase the number of
9 licensed veterinarians in the State. First, there is currently
10 no in-state veterinary school. Therefore, residents who wish to
11 pursue careers as veterinarians must leave the State to obtain
12 the necessary education and training. In addition, students
13 wishing to attend a public veterinary school will likely need to
14 pay tuition at the rate applicable to out-of-state students.
15 Accordingly, the cost to obtain a veterinary education may
16 exceed \$250,000. Although there are likely many residents who
17 aspire to become licensed veterinarians, these factors make this



1 goal too expensive for many to attain. Finally, Hawaii's high
2 cost of living may deter some veterinarians from opening
3 practices in the State. In light of these foregoing issues, the
4 legislature finds that steps must be taken to incentivize
5 veterinarians to practice in Hawaii.

6 The legislature further finds that the John A. Burns School
7 of Medicine administers a state loan repayment and scholarship
8 program that provides loan repayments to physicians who commit
9 to working in certain parts of the State, and awards
10 scholarships to qualifying medical students. This program has
11 successfully incentivized more physicians to remain in Hawaii to
12 practice medicine. The legislature finds that expanding this
13 program to include scholarships and loan repayments for current
14 and future veterinarians is a potential way to grow that
15 profession in Hawaii.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to expand the
17 current state loan repayment and scholarship program for
18 physicians to include veterinarians by:

- 19 (1) Renaming the John A. Burns school of medicine special
20 fund as the physician and veterinarian special fund;



- 1 (2) Expanding the authorized uses of special fund moneys
2 to include providing loan repayments to veterinarians
3 and scholarships for students attending a veterinary
4 college; provided that the recipient commits to
5 working in the State for a minimum period of time;
- 6 (3) Requiring the Hawaii board of veterinary medicine to
7 establish and administer a loan repayment and
8 scholarship program;
- 9 (4) Establishing a fee to be assessed on persons obtaining
10 or renewing a veterinary license;
- 11 (5) Providing for the deposit of fee revenues into the
12 physician and veterinarian special fund;
- 13 (6) Requiring the university of Hawaii and Hawaii board of
14 veterinary medicine to enter into an intergovernmental
15 agreement or memorandum of understanding regarding the
16 administration and use of the physician and
17 veterinarian special fund; and
- 18 (7) Appropriating moneys into and out of the physician and
19 veterinarian special fund.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§471- Veterinary workforce development fee;
5 scholarship and loan repayment program. (a) In addition to any
6 other fee authorized under this chapter, the board shall assess
7 a veterinary workforce development fee of \$60 on each person
8 obtaining a license or renewing a license. The fee revenue
9 shall be transferred and deposited into the physician and
10 veterinarian special fund established under section 304A-2171
11 and expended to support the loan repayment and scholarship
12 program established by subsection (b). Payment of the
13 veterinary workforce development fee shall be required to obtain
14 or renew a license.

15 (b) The board shall establish and administer a loan
16 repayment and scholarship program that provides:

- 17 (1) Loan repayments to veterinarians who commit to working
18 in Hawaii for a minimum period of time determined by
19 the board; and
20 (2) Scholarships to students attending a veterinary
21 college that meets standards established by the board;



1 provided that the scholarship recipient commits to
2 work in the State after graduation for a minimum
3 period of time determined by the board.

4 (c) A person who received a loan repayment or scholarship
5 pursuant to subsection (b) and who does not work in Hawaii for
6 the minimum time period specified by the board shall repay the
7 amount of the loan repayment or scholarship received to the
8 physician and veterinarian special fund; provided that the board
9 may waive this requirement upon good cause shown.

10 (d) The board shall adopt rules in accordance with
11 chapter 91 necessary to implement and administer the loan
12 repayment and scholarship program, including eligibility
13 requirements and procedures."

14 SECTION 3. Section 304A-2171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "~~§304A-2171 [John A. Burns school of medicine]~~ Physician
17 and veterinarian special fund. (a) There is established the
18 [~~John A. Burns school of medicine]~~ physician and veterinarian
19 special fund, to be administered and expended by the University
20 of Hawaii[-], subject to the university of Hawaii's
21 intergovernmental agreement or memorandum of understanding with



1 the Hawaii board of veterinary medicine pursuant to
2 subsection (d).

3 (b) The following shall be deposited into the special
4 fund:

5 (1) Appropriations by the legislature;

6 (2) Physician workforce assessment fees established
7 pursuant to section 453-8.8;

8 (3) Veterinary workforce development fees established
9 pursuant to section 471-_____;

10 [~~3~~] (4) Grants, donations, gifts, or other income
11 received for the purposes of the special fund; and

12 [~~4~~] (5) Interest earned or accrued on moneys in the
13 special fund.

14 (c) Moneys in the special fund shall be used to support
15 the John A. Burns school of medicine's activities related to
16 physician workforce assessment and planning within Hawaii[+] and
17 the Hawaii board of veterinary medicine's scholarship and loan
18 repayment program pursuant to section 471-_____; provided that
19 the physician workforce assessment fees transferred and
20 deposited into the special fund pursuant to section 453-8.8
21 shall be used for purposes identified by the Hawaii medical



1 education council to support physician workforce assessment and
2 planning efforts, including the recruitment and retention of
3 physicians, for rural and medically underserved areas of the
4 State[~~—This~~]; provided further that the veterinary workforce
5 development fees transferred and deposited pursuant to section
6 471- shall be kept in a separate account within the special
7 fund and expended by the Hawaii board of veterinary medicine for
8 the purposes of section 471- . The purposes of the special
9 fund shall include but not be limited to:

- 10 (1) Maintaining accurate physician workforce assessment
11 information and providing or updating personal and
12 professional information, that shall be maintained in
13 a secure database;
- 14 (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to
15 working in medically underserved areas of the State as
16 part of the Hawaii state loan repayment program
17 administered by the John A. Burns school of medicine;
18 [and]
- 19 (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying medical students
20 to be determined by the John A. Burns school of
21 medicine[~~-~~];

- 1 (4) Providing loan repayment to veterinarians who commit
- 2 to work in the State as part of a loan repayment
- 3 program administered by the Hawaii board of veterinary
- 4 medicine pursuant to section 471- ; and
- 5 (5) Providing scholarships to qualifying students
- 6 attending a veterinary college and who commit to work
- 7 in the State pursuant to section 471- .

8 The John A. Burns school of medicine may disclose information
 9 specific to any physician only with the express written consent
 10 of that physician.

11 (d) The university of Hawaii and Hawaii board of
 12 veterinary medicine shall execute an intergovernmental agreement
 13 or memorandum of understanding that establishes each agency's
 14 rights and responsibilities regarding the administration and use
 15 of moneys in the special fund."

16 SECTION 4. Section 453-8.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 17 amended to read as follows:

18 **"§453-8.8 Physician workforce assessment fee; license;**
 19 **physician workforce information.** When a license is renewed,
 20 each physician or surgeon and each osteopathic physician or
 21 surgeon shall be assessed a fee of \$60 that shall be transferred



1 and deposited into the [~~John A. Burns school of medicine~~]
2 physician and veterinarian special fund established under
3 section 304A-2171 to support ongoing assessment and planning of
4 the physician workforce in Hawaii, including:

- 5 (1) Ongoing assessment and planning, as well as the
6 recruitment and retention of physicians, especially
7 for the physician workforce serving rural and
8 medically underserved areas of the State;
- 9 (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to
10 working in medically underserved areas of the State as
11 part of the Hawaii state loan repayment program
12 administered by the John A. Burns school of medicine;
13 and
- 14 (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying medical students
15 to be determined by the John A. Burns school of
16 medicine.

17 Payment of the physician workforce assessment fee shall be
18 required for license renewal."

19 SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
20 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
21 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined



1 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
2 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
3 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The
4 reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are
5 that the appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve
6 the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this
7 Act.

8 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
11 deposited into the physician and veterinarian special fund.

12 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the physician and
13 veterinarian special fund the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to provide
15 loan repayments and scholarships to persons who commit to
16 working as veterinarians in the State.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the board of
18 veterinary medicine for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 3262

1 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Shant M. Rendon CP



S.B. NO. 3262

Report Title:

Veterinarians; Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine;
Scholarships; Loan Repayment; John A. Burns School of Medicine
Special Fund; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded;
Appropriation

Description:

Renames the John A. Burns School of Medicine special fund as the physician and veterinarian special fund. Expands the authorized uses of the special fund to include providing loan repayments to veterinarians and scholarships for students attending a veterinary college; provided that the recipient commits to work in the State for a period of time determined by the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine. Requires the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish a loan repayment and scholarship program. Assesses a fee on persons obtaining or renewing a veterinarian license. Provides for the deposit of the fee into the physician and veterinarian special fund. Appropriates moneys into and out of the physician and veterinarian special fund. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling.

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

