
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 Huli Au Ola, Maui
2 county area health education center, provides support and
3 assistance to underserved and rural areas of Maui county. The
4 island of Molokai is the area most underserved by non-primary
5 care physicians and dentists. The retention of physicians and
6 dentists is critical to the Molokai community of approximately
7 seven thousand residents. With only one airline serving the
8 island of Molokai, the lack of medical professionals on Molokai
9 is critical. Many Molokai residents cannot afford to travel to
10 seek medical and dental care. Although telehealth is available
11 for most community members, more serious conditions require an
12 in-person visit with a medical professional.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require Huli Au Ola to
14 conduct a study on the recruitment and retention of physicians
15 and dentists to be located on and serve the island of Molokai.



1 SECTION 2. (a) Huli Au Ola shall conduct a study on the
2 recruitment and retention of physicians and dentists to serve
3 the island of Molokai.

4 (b) The study shall include information related to:

5 (1) Recruitment;

6 (2) Retention;

7 (3) Housing availability;

8 (4) Transportation availability;

9 (5) Airline availability;

10 (6) Partnerships;

11 (7) Communication; and

12 (8) Evaluation process.

13 SECTION 3. Huli Au Ola shall submit a report of its
14 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
15 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
16 to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 as a
20 grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to Huli



1 Au Ola to study the recruitment and retention of physicians and
2 dentists to serve the island of Molokai.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
4 Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine for the purposes of this
5 Act.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



S.B. NO. 2261
S.D. 1

Report Title:

Huli Au Ola; Physician and Dentist Retention; Molokai; Study; Grant; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires Huli Au Ola to conduct a study on physician and dentist recruitment and retention to serve the island of Molokai. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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