

ACT 132

S.B. NO. 1187

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation for Establishment of the “Hawaii Dental Education Plan”.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to assist residents of Hawaii to obtain a dental education in other states in view of the fact that there is no dental school in this State.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“CHAPTER DENTAL EDUCATION

Sec. -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

“Department” means the department of budget and finance.

“Director” means the director of finance.

“Plan” means the Hawaii dental education plan.

“WICHE” means the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education as described in chapter 310.

Sec. -2 Hawaii dental education plan, established. There is established the Hawaii dental education plan to assist in securing dental education for residents of the State of Hawaii. The plan shall be under the department of budget and finance.

Sec. -3 Hawaii dental education plan. (a) The department may enter into agreements with dental schools accredited by the American Dental Association not within the jurisdiction of WICHE, for the education of Hawaii residents.

(b) The agreements entered into under subsection (a) shall provide among other necessary and desirable provisions that the schools contracted with shall reserve a set number of vacancies in each class for qualified applicants who are residents of the State of Hawaii. The State, through the department, shall disburse moneys, on behalf of the student, to the school, the total of which for each student shall not exceed amounts being provided per student for a similar program under WICHE. The agreements may contain other provisions relating to the administration of the plan and any contracts thereunder.

(c) Subject to the limitation set by subsection (b), any amount allotted to a student shall be disbursed directly to the school.

(d) Any student participating in the plan shall be responsible for financing of his expenses except for the amount specified in a contract executed in conformance with this chapter. The State shall not be implicitly or explicitly presumed to be liable or in any way responsible for any cost of a dental education for any participating student except under such contract.

(e) Students approved for participation in the plan shall be residents of the State of Hawaii, and shall have met the entrance requirements of the contracting dental school. Determination of the amount of funds to be expended on behalf of a student approved for participation in the plan shall be based on need and ability; provided that where there is no demonstrated need, the State shall not be required to provide such specific sum.

(f) Students seeking participation in this program shall be required by the department of budget and finance to execute an agreement with the State, which shall, among other necessary and desirable provisions, provide that upon completion of the student’s dental education the student shall either:

(1) Actively engage in professional practice or other professional pursuits in areas with inadequate dental service, with the department of health, or other acceptable service as determined by the director of social services, director of health, and the director of finance, jointly, or

(2) Repay all amounts expended by the State of Hawaii under this plan for the student's education.

(g) Neither the department of budget and finance nor any professional dental society in the State shall influence the selection of the qualified applicants for the plan nor the schools which the selected applicants attend.

Sec. -4 Contract administration. The department shall seek the assistance of WICHE for the administration of contracts and agreements entered into under this plan.

Sec. -5 Rules. The director may adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary or desirable to the implementation of this chapter, subject to the provisions of chapter 91."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$39,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purposes of this Act, to be expended by the department of budget and finance.

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

(Approved May 27, 1976.)