

A Bill for an Act Relating to Health.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish a primary health care incentive program within the department of health to study and assess the primary health care needs of medically underserved populations in Hawaii, develop strategies and incentives to address those needs, and acknowledge the important role of family practitioners in serving the medically underserved. The program shall operate utilizing existing resources.

A volunteer advisory group known as the primary health care roundtable shall be an integral component of the program. One of the primary functions of the roundtable shall be to maintain an ongoing forum for the discussion of data collection regarding primary health care gaps, incentives to promote primary health care, and the development of interdisciplinary efforts among health care professionals.

SECTION 2. **Primary health care incentive program; establishment.** There is established within the department of health a primary health care incentive program. The program shall:

- (1) Utilize existing personnel and resources to focus on primary health care;
- (2) Study the adequacy, accessibility, and availability of primary health care with regard to medically underserved persons in the State of Hawaii;
- (3) Convene and provide staff support for a volunteer primary health care roundtable composed of knowledgeable health care professionals, consumers, and other interested persons whose advisory purpose shall be to:
 - (A) Investigate and analyze the extent, location, and characteristics of medically underserved areas, and the numbers, location, and characteristics of medically underserved persons in Hawaii, with particular attention given to shortages of health care professionals available to provide care to these areas and persons;
 - (B) Assess the feasibility of family practice clerkships, preceptor programs, residency programs, and placement programs for medical school students and graduates as a means of increasing the number of family practitioners available to serve medically underserved areas and populations;
 - (C) Investigate and make recommendations regarding incentives, such as tuition exemptions, to increase the pool of primary health care practitioners, including family practitioners, other physicians in related specialties, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants, that are available to serve medically underserved areas and populations;
 - (D) Develop a strategy for meeting the health needs of medically underserved areas and populations based upon the findings that result from its investigations; and
 - (E) Maintain an ongoing forum for the discussion of data collection regarding primary health care gaps, incentives to promote

- primary health care, and the development of cooperative interdisciplinary efforts among primary health care professionals;
- (4) Develop a strategy to provide appropriate and adequate access to primary health care in underserved areas;
 - (5) Promote and develop community and consumer involvement in maintaining, rebuilding, and diversifying primary health care services in medically underserved areas;
 - (6) Produce and distribute minutes of volunteer primary health care roundtable's discussions, and submit annual reports to the legislature on recommended incentives and strategies, as well as a plan for implementation, with the first report to be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 1993 regular session; and
 - (7) Facilitate communication and coordination among providers, health care educators, communities, cultural groups, and consumers of primary health care.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 27, 1992.)