

A Bill for an Act Relating to Health Tourism.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds it is desirable for the State to diversify the tourism base and develop its potential for special markets such as health tourism. Health-related tourism provides a means of promoting Hawaii's healthcare services, facilities, and education with tourism amenities to attract patients, especially those from the Asia-Pacific region. The legislature also finds that Hawaii's healthcare providers already have contractual arrangements with a number of Asia-Pacific nations which provide a base for the further development of health tourism. An important part of this effort is the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of Hawaii school of nursing. The school of medicine currently accepts graduates of foreign medical schools into its residency program. The school of nursing accepts foreign students into its bachelor of science and master in science graduate programs as well as conducts a number of continuing education offerings for short-term foreign visitors to Hawaii. Both of these school's foreign activities provide models for an expanded international student exchange. Both the school of medicine and the school of nursing would benefit from the establishment of a permanent exchange program between Hawaii and healthcare communities in Asia and around the world. These activities would be an important factor in enhancing the reputation of the school of medicine and the school of nursing and the success of the State's health tourism promotion efforts.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a permanent international exchange program between the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of Hawaii school of nursing and foreign healthcare provider educational institutions to promote Hawaii's health industry and to encourage the development of health-related tourism in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

SECTION 2. Chapter 304, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§304- International exchange program for health related tourism. There is established an international exchange program for medical and nursing students within the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of Hawaii school of nursing that shall focus on Hawaii's role in international medical and nursing education, training, research, and information sharing. The school of medicine and the school of nursing, in cooperation with the school of public health and the school of travel industry management, shall develop a plan for the development and promotion of Hawaii's healthcare expertise to be coordinated with the State's initiative to promote health-related tourism.

§304- International exchange health care tourism revolving fund. (a) There is established a revolving fund for the international exchange of healthcare tourism program into which shall be deposited all donations, gifts, contributions, legislative appropriations, and moneys generated by the program through education, training, and research contracts and grants. Moneys deposited into this fund for the school of medicine and the school of nursing shall be divided into separate accounts for each school, provided that moneys not designated for use by a particular school shall be divided equally. Moneys shall be expended from each account by the school of medicine and the school of nursing, for student aid, training projects, teaching,

supplies, services, and activities related to the development and promotion of the health-related tourism education program.

(b) The deans of the school of medicine and the school of nursing shall jointly prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature accounting for all income and expenditures of the revolving fund.

(c) All unexpended and unencumbered moneys appropriated by the legislature remaining in the fund at the close of each fiscal year which are deemed, by the director of finance, to be in excess of the moneys necessary to carry out the purposes of this section over the next following fiscal year shall lapse to the credit of the state general fund.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1998.

(Approved July 20, 1998.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.