VETO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 343 H.D. 1 S.D. 2 C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

VETO OVERRIDE

Act No. 3
Approved: [illegible]
Dated: July 15, 2009

RELATING TO RURAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRAINING.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a severe shortage of primary care health providers in the state, which threatens the health of our residents and affects health care costs. This shortage has pushed the federal government to designate a number of areas in the state, particularly rural areas, as medically underserved areas, health professional shortage areas, or as having medically underserved populations.

The legislature further finds that family physicians are well-suited to rural health care due to the broad scope of their practice, which encompasses inpatient, outpatient, and nursing home settings, and addresses acute, chronic, and preventive health care across the life cycle. Many family physicians also provide maternity care, family planning, and mental health services through their practices.

The University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine currently offers a three-year residency program in family medicine. The program emphasizes a system-based and interdisciplinary team approach to health care. The mission of

1 the family medicine residency program is to meet the needs of
2 rural and medically underserved areas and populations in Hawaii
3 in a culturally sensitive and medically appropriate manner.
4 Family medicine program residents provide not only health care
5 but also education and outreach at schools and community events.
6 Presently, family medicine program residents spend two months in
7 a federally-funded rural health care training demonstration
8 project, initiated in Hilo in 2006, in which medical residents
9 learn how to provide health care to medically underserved
10 patients in rural areas as they rotate among private physician
11 offices, emergency departments, and the community, providing
12 outreach and education. It is anticipated that the Hilo rural
13 health training program will be duplicated on Kauai. Additional
14 training sites will be developed in conjunction with the health
15 master planning process underway on Maui and with the hospital
16 and community health center system on Kauai. As these sites are
17 being developed, the curriculum can be structured so that family
18 medicine residents have the opportunity to rotate to neighbor
19 island sites other than Hilo.
20 The purpose of this Act is to increase access to primary
21 health care services provided by family physicians or residents
22 in the family medicine residency program at the University of

1 Hawaii to medically underserved residents in rural areas of the
2 state by appropriating funds to:
3 (1) Support and expand the family medicine residency
4 program of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
5 school of medicine's department of family medicine and
6 community health to provide rural primary health care
7 services; and
8 (2) Develop a permanent statewide rural primary health
9 care training program in each county, beginning in the
10 county of Hawaii, to expand the rural health care
11 training available for individuals in the family
12 medicine residency program of the University of Hawaii
13 John A. Burns school of medicine.
14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $70,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 to support
17 and expand the family medicine residency program at the
18 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine's
19 department of family medicine and community health to provide
20 rural primary health care services.
21 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $70,000 or so much

thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to develop a statewide rural primary health care training program in each county, beginning in the county of Hawaii to provide family physicians to rural areas and improve health care access for the people of Hawaii.

SECTION 4. The sums appropriated in sections 2 and 3 shall be expended by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.