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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's  
2 population growth and rapidly aging population will  
3 significantly increase the demand for physician services.  
4 Hawaii's physician workforce is also aging. Federal statistics  
5 show that over a third of the State's physicians are fifty-five  
6 years of age or older and can be expected to leave the workforce  
7 at a time when demand is escalating. Furthermore, physician  
8 shortages will likely reduce access to care, particularly for  
9 neighbor island residents, the elderly, and the indigent  
10 statewide. Physician workforce shortages will also  
11 significantly raise the already high cost of medical care. In  
12 2006, the federal government projected an across-the-board  
13 national physician shortage by the year 2020. Medical  
14 specialties whose physicians serve a large proportion of the  
15 elderly, such as ophthalmology and cardiology, may experience  
16 shortages ranging from thirty to fifty per cent. Many states

1 have published internal studies that similarly forecast  
2 physician shortages.

3 The legislature finds it prudent to assess Hawaii's  
4 physician workforce on a continual basis. On-going assessments  
5 based on reliable physician workforce data will support  
6 proactive measures to prevent or ameliorate the impact of  
7 physician shortages in Hawaii.

8 The purpose of this Act is to implement statewide physician  
9 workforce assessment and planning.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§304A- John A. Burns school of medicine special fund.

14 (a) There is established the John A. Burns school of medicine  
15 special fund, to be administered and expended by the University  
16 of Hawaii.

17 (b) The following shall be deposited into the special  
18 fund:

19 (1) Appropriations by the legislature;

20 (2) Physician workforce assessment fees established  
21 pursuant to section 453- ;

1       (3) Grants, donations, gifts, or other income received for  
2       the purposes of the special fund; and

3       (4) Interest earned or accrued on moneys in the special  
4       fund.

5       (c) Moneys in the special fund shall be used to support  
6       the John A. Burns school of medicine's activities related to  
7       physician workforce assessment and planning within Hawaii. This  
8       shall include, but not be limited to, maintaining accurate  
9       physician workforce assessment information, and providing or  
10       updating personal and professional information, which shall be  
11       maintained in a secure database. The John A. Burns school of  
12       medicine may disclose information specific to any physician only  
13       with the express written consent of that physician."

14       SECTION 3. Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15       amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
16       and to read as follows:

17       "§453- Physician workforce assessment fee; license;  
18       physician workforce information. When a license is renewed,  
19       each physician or surgeon and each osteopathic physician or  
20       surgeon shall be assessed a fee of \$60, which shall be deposited  
21       into the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund  
22       established under section 304A- to support ongoing assessment

1 and planning of the physician workforce in Hawaii. Payment of  
2 the physician workforce assessment fee shall be required for  
3 license renewal."

4 SECTION 4. The director of commerce and consumer affairs  
5 shall disburse on a quarterly basis from the compliance  
6 resolution fund, established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii  
7 Revised Statutes, to the credit of the John A. Burns school of  
8 medicine special fund established pursuant to section 304A- ,  
9 Hawaii Revised Statutes, all moneys deposited in the separate  
10 account established pursuant to section 453- .

11 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the  
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
15 2010-2011 to implement statewide physician workforce assessment  
16 and planning as provided in this Act.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the John A.  
18 Burns school of medicine of the University of Hawaii for the  
19 purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the compliance  
21 resolution fund the sum of \$5,000 or so much thereof as may be  
22 necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to be  
2 deposited into the John A. Burns school of medicine special  
3 fund. These sums shall be reimbursed from the John A. Burns  
4 school of medicine special fund to the compliance resolution  
5 fund by July 1, 2010.

6 SECTION 7. The John A. Burns school of medicine shall  
7 submit a report of findings and recommendations detailing its  
8 assessment of the physician workforce to the legislature, the  
9 state health planning and development agency, and the Hawaii  
10 medical board no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
11 of the regular session of 2011 and each odd-numbered year  
12 thereafter. The report to the Hawaii medical board shall also  
13 include information on the expenditure of fees collected  
14 pursuant to section 453- , Hawaii Revised Statutes, to produce  
15 a physician workforce plan for Hawaii.

16 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009;  
19 provided that sections 3 and 4 shall be repealed on June 30,  
20 2012.

**Report Title:**

Physician Workforce Assessment and Planning

**Description:**

Creates John A. Burns school of medicine special fund;  
establishes a \$60 physician workforce assessment fee to renew  
physician and osteopathic physician licenses; transfers those  
fees from compliance resolution fund for deposit to the special  
fund for Hawaii physician workforce assessment information;  
appropriates funds; requires annual and biennial reports;  
repeals the physician workforce assessment fee and the transfer  
of fees from the compliance resolution fund on June 30, 2012.

(SD1)