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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has a  
2 shortage of physicians compared to similar populations  
3 throughout the United States. Studies of the physician  
4 workforce in Hawaii demonstrate extreme shortages of primary  
5 care specialties, most notably in rural areas. Rising demand on  
6 the health care system in Hawaii due to population growth,  
7 aging, and the prevalence of chronic disease call for an  
8 increase in the existing physician base. Access to a personal  
9 physician has been shown to decrease morbidity and mortality  
10 while controlling health care costs through early detection and  
11 careful management of chronic disease and deferral of  
12 unnecessary hospital admission and emergency room visits.

13           Despite this shortage, many medical students graduating  
14 with considerable debt feel compelled to choose a non-primary-  
15 care specialty with higher compensation in order to repay  
16 student loans. In addition, the current stock of physicians is  
17 rapidly approaching retirement age, suggesting a contraction in  
18 the existing physician workforce. As the entire United States



1 develops the accountable care organization model, the  
2 competition to recruit new primary care providers will increase.

3       Furthermore, physicians tend to remain and practice where  
4 they train. If bright medical students leave Hawaii to train  
5 elsewhere, they are less likely to return and practice in  
6 Hawaii. Strong evidence suggests that if both medical school  
7 and residency are completed in Hawaii, eighty-five per cent of  
8 physicians will remain and practice in Hawaii.

9       The legislature further finds that a comprehensive approach  
10 that addresses the primary care workforce shortage in Hawaii  
11 requires incentivizing primary care by:

- 12       (1) Reducing medical school debt via a loan repayment  
13             program for medical students and other health  
14             professionals who serve in shortage specialties and  
15             underserved areas of Hawaii;
- 16       (2) Ensuring a culturally competent workforce for the  
17             unique and diverse peoples of Hawaii with support for  
18             programs and initiatives such as the Imi Hoola  
19             program, which brings disadvantaged young people into  
20             medical careers, and the native Hawaiian student  
21             pathway to medicine program, which supports workforce  
22             diversity; and



1 (3) Expanding the graduate medical education or residency  
2 training positions in primary care that are available  
3 to students, such as doubling the faculty and  
4 infrastructure of the existing family medicine  
5 residency program at the John A. Burns school of  
6 medicine and developing new accredited family health  
7 centers in association with teaching hospitals.

8 The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of  
9 primary care physicians in the State by making an appropriation  
10 for the Hawaii health corps and diversity programs and primary  
11 care workforce expansion at the John A. Burns school of  
12 medicine.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
17 2014-2015 for deposit into the Hawaii health corps revolving  
18 fund.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii health  
20 corps revolving fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as  
21 may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or  
22 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015



1 for purposes pursuant to section 309H-6, Hawaii Revised  
2 Statutes.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
4 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of  
5 Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene for the  
6 purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
11 2014-2015 to support programs of the John A. Burns school of  
12 medicine's native Hawaiian center of excellence such as the Imi  
13 Hoola program and the native Hawaiian student pathway to  
14 medicine program.

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

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
22 2014-2015 for increases in faculty and infrastructure of the



1 existing family medicine residency program and development of  
2 new accredited family health centers in association with  
3 teaching hospitals.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the John A.  
5 Burns school of medicine for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Primary Health Care; Primary Care Workforce Development Plan;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in the State through a comprehensive primary care workforce development plan that addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD1)

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