
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTION PLAN TO MITIGATE IMMEDIATE
AND FUTURE CRITICAL SHORTAGES OF PHYSICIANS IN THE STATE OF
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 18, Special Session Laws of Hawaii
2 2009, the Hawaii State Legislature:

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- 4 (1) Established the John A. Burns School of Medicine
5 (JABSOM) Special Fund (Special Fund), to be
6 administered by the University of Hawaii (UH);
7
- 8 (2) Created a \$60 fee to be assessed on the license and
9 renewal of license of every physician and surgeon and
10 every osteopathic physician or surgeon and deposited
11 into the Special Fund to support ongoing assessment
12 and planning of the physician workforce in Hawaii; and
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- 14 (3) Directed JABSOM to assess the physician workforce in
15 the State of Hawaii, and report its findings and
16 recommendations to the Legislature, the State Health
17 Planning and Development Agency, and the Hawaii
18 Medical Board no later than twenty days prior to the
19 convening of the Regular Session of 2011 and each odd-
20 numbered year thereafter;

21
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, in December 2012, JABSOM issued its report
25 entitled, "Report on Findings from the Hawaii Physician
26 Workforce Assessment Project, Act 18, SSLH 2005 (Section 5)",
27 which found that Hawaii was short 600 physicians when compared
28 to similar communities across the United States; and
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1 WHEREAS, the report found that half of the shortage was in
 2 primary care and the neighbor islands suffered a
 3 disproportionate shortage compared to Oahu; and
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5 WHEREAS, this finding was clearly evident in Table 1, found
 6 on page 5 of the report, as follows:
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8 "Table 1. Physicians Shortage by Island, 2012
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<u>2012 Island</u>	<u>Supply</u>	<u>Demand</u>	<u>Shortage</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>% Shortage</u>
Hawaii	341	516	175	34%
Kauai	132	196	64	33%
Lanai	2	12	10	83%
Mauai	292	376	84	22%
Molokai	11	33	22	50%
Oahu	2,177	2,468	291	12%
Total	2,955	3,590	635	18%

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 11 WHEREAS, the figures used in determining demand were taken
 12 from a study issued in 2010 by Kelley Withy MD, PhD; Tim Dall
 13 MS; and David Sakamoto MD, MBA, entitled, "Hawaii Physician
 14 Workforce Assessment 2010" (Workforce Assessment), in which a
 15 proprietary model was developed by The Lewin Group to produce
 16 demand estimates for national associations and the Federal
 17 Bureau of Health Professionals; and
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19 WHEREAS, the demand model utilized national healthcare use
 20 and delivery patterns to calculate specialty and setting
 21 specific provider-per-population ratios by patient age, gender,
 22 race/ethnicity, obesity status, and insurance status for
 23 physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants; and
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25 WHEREAS, these ratios, combined with population estimates
 26 and projections by Hawaii region, produced estimates of
 27 physician demand under alternative healthcare delivery
 28 scenarios; and
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1 WHEREAS, most troubling was the data found in Table 2 of
2 the Workforce Assessment, as follows:

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4 "Table 2. Projected FTE Physician Demand by Region (Baseline
5 Scenario) from The Lewin Group
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Year	State	Island			
		Hawaii	Oahu	Kauai	Maui
2008	3,410	470	2,390	170	380
2009	3,450	480	2,410	180	380
2010	3,500	490	2,440	180	390
2011	3,530	500	2,460	180	390
2012	3,590	520	2,490	180	400
2013	3,640	530	2,510	190	410
2014	3,730	560	2,550	190	430
2015	3,770	570	2,570	200	430
2016	3,830	590	2,600	200	440
2017	3,880	600	2,630	200	450
2018	3,930	620	2,650	200	460
2019	3,990	630	2,680	210	470
2020	4,040	650	2,700	210	480

7
8 WHEREAS, the study found that if current trends continue,
9 Hawaii will suffer a net loss of practicing physicians every
10 year resulting in a shortfall of 1,600 providers by 2020 if
11 systemic changes are not implemented; and
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13 WHEREAS, while both reports provided, among other things,
14 general policy recommendations for the Legislature to
15 establishing incentives for physicians to practice in
16 geographically underserved areas, neither provided specific
17 action steps that JABSOM and UH may take to increase the number
18 of physicians trained in Hawaii that ultimately practice in
19 Hawaii from the context of mitigating the anticipated shortfall;
20 and
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1 WHEREAS, because any action steps taken by JABSOM would
2 require coordination with the residency programs at Queen's
3 Medical Center, the hospitals of Hawaii Pacific Health, Kuakini
4 Hospital, and Wahiawa General Hospital, and take years to
5 develop and implement, it is vital that JABSOM and the various
6 hospitals begin immediately to establish strategic goals,
7 tactical initiatives for both the short-term and long-term, and
8 consistent policy directives that reflect general consensus
9 among all of the health care providers; and

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11 WHEREAS, for example, the State has endorsed the policy of
12 establishing a new family practice residency program at Hilo
13 Medical Center; and

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15 WHEREAS, however, it will take years before the program
16 will be in a position to adequately train residents from JABSOM
17 or other medical schools; and

18
19 WHEREAS, in the meantime, Wahiawa General Hospital is the
20 only hospital that provides residency training for family
21 practice physicians; and

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23 WHEREAS, in recent years, Wahiawa General Hospital has
24 operated the family practice residency program at a significant
25 financial operating loss; and

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27 WHEREAS, furthermore, the Legislature has reduced grant-in-
28 aid funding to Wahiawa General Hospital for the family practice
29 residency program in recent years; and

30
31 WHEREAS, should Wahiawa General Hospital determine that it
32 can no longer sustain the family practice residency program
33 before the family practice residency program at Hilo Medical
34 Center is fully operational, JABSOM could lose its accreditation
35 by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) of the
36 Association of American Medical Colleges and the Council on
37 Medical Education of the American Medical Association; and

38
39 WHEREAS, should JABSOM lose its LCME accreditation, it
40 would further damage the State's ability to recruit and retain
41 qualified physicians in the State of Hawaii; and



1 WHEREAS, in light of this, it is vital that JABSOM and UH
2 proceed immediately in addressing the need to train a sufficient
3 number of physicians in the State of Hawaii for both our
4 immediate and future needs; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, the Senate
8 Concurring, that this body requests JABSOM, as part of its
9 continuing physician workforce assessment, to develop an action
10 plan detailing specific goals, activities, and measurement
11 outcomes to mitigate the anticipated shortfall of physicians in
12 the State of Hawaii for both the short-term, and long-term; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JABSOM collaborate with the
15 Chief Executive Officers and administrations of all hospitals
16 operating in the State of Hawaii, with particular focus on those
17 which already partner with JABSOM to provide residency training
18 for JABSOM graduates; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JABSOM examine the capacity its
21 facilities to determine whether class sizes may be expanded to
22 increase the number of graduates and maximize the use of these
23 facilities; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as an action step, JABSOM
26 address the sustainability of the family practice residency
27 programs at Wahiawa General Hospital and its impact on JABSOM's
28 accreditation while the family practice residency program is
29 fully operational at Hilo Medical Center; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JABSOM include the action plan
32 as part of its updated physician workforce assessment required
33 pursuant to Act 18, SSLH 2009 to be transmitted to the
34 Legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the
35 Regular Session of 2015; and
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H.C.R. NO. 141

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to: the Governor of the
 3 State of Hawaii; the Director of Health; the Chair of the Board
 4 of Regents of the University of Hawaii; the President of the
 5 University of Hawaii; the Dean of JABSOM; and the Chief
 6 Executive Officer of every hospital conducting business in the
 7 State of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: *[Signature]*
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