
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. According to a November 2016 report by the
2 University of Hawaii, Hawaii loses on average fifty physicians
3 per year due to retirement. It is estimated that there will be
4 a shortage of three hundred to seven hundred physicians by 2020.
5 Within ten years, approximately fifty-two per cent of physicians
6 in the State will be sixty-five years of age or older, which is
7 a common age for retirement.

8 During the 2016-2017 academic year, the John A. Burns
9 school of medicine enrolled a total of two hundred eighty
10 students. Of the approximately two thousand three hundred
11 individuals who applied, only seventy--which is the largest
12 class the school can accommodate without adding faculty or
13 expanding facilities--were accepted into the first-year class.

14 It is imperative that the State attempt to reduce this
15 physician shortfall. Initiatives such as adding faculty or
16 expanding facilities at the John A. Burns school of medicine are
17 costly. However, a less expensive alternative exists:



1 financially assisting Hawaii residents to attend medical school
2 in foreign nations in which the costs of education and living
3 are lower than in Hawaii. Many physicians who currently
4 practice in Hawaii have graduated from foreign medical schools,
5 including those in the Philippines.

6 The colleges of medicine in the Philippines provide an
7 attractive option for Hawaii students who wish to pursue a
8 medical education, which would help to alleviate the growing
9 shortage of practicing physicians in the State. In addition,
10 foreign students from many other Asian nations attend colleges
11 of medicine in the Philippines.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
13 health to conduct a study regarding the establishment of a pilot
14 program under which residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of
15 medicine degree at colleges of medicine in the Philippines, with
16 State-provided financial support, in exchange for a commitment
17 to practice medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

18 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall conduct a
19 study regarding the establishment of a pilot program under which
20 residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of medicine degree at a
21 college of medicine in the Philippines, with State-provided



1 financial support, in exchange for a commitment to practice
2 medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

3 (b) The study shall consider the following:

4 (1) What qualifications, including those pertaining
5 to legal residence and academic achievement,
6 individuals shall meet to be eligible to
7 participate in the pilot program; provided that
8 eligibility criteria shall be structured to
9 encourage individuals from throughout Hawaii,
10 particularly rural and underserved areas, to
11 apply to and participate in the pilot program;

12 (2) The amount of financial support to be provided by
13 the State to individuals participating in the
14 pilot program and how such amounts shall be
15 determined;

16 (3) The purposes for which the financial support
17 provided in paragraph (2) may be used; provided
18 that tuition, room and board, and transportation
19 shall be allowable expenses;

20 (4) The required length and any other conditions of
21 an individual's commitment to practice medicine



- 1 in the State after graduation; provided that
2 individuals shall be:
- 3 (A) Required to complete their medical
4 internships in the United States; and
 - 5 (B) Strongly encouraged to practice medicine in
6 their home communities in Hawaii;
- 7 (5) The penalties to be imposed on or reimbursement
8 of financial support to be required of, if any,
9 an individual who fails to:
- 10 (A) Complete the doctor of medicine degree at a
11 college of medicine in the Philippines; or
 - 12 (B) Meet the required commitment to practice
13 medicine in Hawaii after graduation;
- 14 (6) Any visa and other immigration requirements or
15 restrictions imposed by the host nation on
16 individuals participating in the pilot program;
- 17 (7) An analysis of the educational equivalency and
18 accreditation standards of colleges of medicine
19 in the Philippines as compared to medical schools
20 in the United States; and



1 (8) Any professional licensing or other requirements
2 applicable to graduates of foreign medical
3 schools that need to be met by individuals
4 participating in the pilot program before they
5 are authorized to practice medicine in the State.

6 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
7 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
8 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days before
9 the regular session of 2019.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
13 department of health to conduct the study required under section
14 2 of this Act.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 health for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Health; Philippine Medical Education; Pilot Program; Study

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to conduct a study regarding a pilot program to pay for Hawaii residents to attend a college of medicine in the Philippines in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawaii after graduation. (HB2465 HD1)

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