

JAN 18 2019

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many residents of  
2 Hawaii are increasingly unable to obtain timely and appropriate  
3 health care due to shortages of primary health care providers in  
4 the State. These shortages threaten the health of Hawaii's  
5 residents and affect state health care costs. These shortages  
6 have also pushed the federal government to designate a number of  
7 areas in the State, particularly rural areas, as medically  
8 underserved areas, health professional shortage areas, or as  
9 having medically underserved populations.

10           The legislature further finds that the increasingly high  
11 cost of health care professional education requires individuals  
12 to seek out the higher incomes that allow them to repay their  
13 student loans. However, these higher incomes are usually in  
14 specialty care in urban areas, not in the areas of greatest need  
15 in Hawaii. Since September 1, 2012, at least twenty-five health  
16 care providers have received loan repayment to work in health  
17 professional shortage areas in Hawaii and are still serving



1 these communities through a loan repayment program started by  
2 the John A. Burns school of medicine of the University of  
3 Hawaii. The program was started with private donations and  
4 matching federal funding.

5 The purpose of this Act is to fund the Hawaii rural health  
6 care provider loan repayment program administered through the  
7 John A. Burns school of medicine of the University of Hawaii to  
8 provide loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, and  
9 nurse practitioners who agree to work in a federally designated  
10 health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to  
11 be underserved.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2020-2021 for the Hawaii rural health care provider loan  
17 repayment program.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
19 of health in coordination with the John A. Burns school of  
20 medicine of the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this  
21 Act.



# S.B. NO. 870

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. K. W.", written over a horizontal line.

# S.B. NO. 870

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program;  
University of Hawaii; John A. Burns School of Medicine;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

