

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

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 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, a total of sixteen
16 physicians and nurse practitioners have received loan repayment
17 to work in health professional shortage areas in Hawaii and are



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

4 The purpose of this Act is to fund the Hawaii health corps
5 loan repayment program under the John A. Burns school of
6 medicine to provide loan repayment for physicians, physician
7 assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social
8 workers who agree to work in a federally designated health
9 professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be
10 underserved.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2016-2017 for the implementation and administration of the
16 Hawaii health corps loan repayment program.

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.

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S.B. NO. 308

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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S.B. NO. 308

Report Title:

Hawaii Health Corps Loan Repayment Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii health corps loan repayment program that provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social workers who agree to work in a federally designated health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

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