
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.

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

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

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

16 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
17 health to conduct a study to develop a pilot program under which



1 residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of medicine degree with
2 state-provided financial support in exchange for a commitment to
3 practice medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall conduct a
5 study regarding the establishment of a pilot program under which
6 residents of Hawaii may pursue a doctor of medicine degree with
7 state-provided financial support in exchange for a commitment to
8 practice medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

9 (b) The study shall consider the following:

10 (1) What qualifications, including those pertaining to
11 legal residence and academic achievement, individuals
12 shall meet to be eligible to participate in the pilot
13 program; provided that eligibility criteria shall be
14 structured to encourage individuals throughout Hawaii,
15 particularly rural and underserved areas, to apply to
16 and participate in the pilot program;

17 (2) The amount of financial support to be provided by the
18 State to individuals participating in the pilot
19 program and how such amounts shall be determined;



- 1 (3) The purposes for which the financial support provided
2 in paragraph (2) may be used; provided that tuition
3 and room and board shall be allowable expenses;
- 4 (4) The required length and any other conditions of an
5 individual's commitment to practice medicine in the
6 State after graduation; provided that individuals
7 shall be strongly encouraged to practice medicine in
8 their home communities in Hawaii;
- 9 (5) The penalties to be imposed on or reimbursement of
10 financial support to be required of an individual who
11 fails to:
- 12 (A) Complete the doctor of medicine degree at an
13 accredited college of medicine; or
- 14 (B) Meet the required commitment to practice medicine
15 in Hawaii after graduation; and
- 16 (6) The feasibility of subsidizing study at foreign
17 colleges of medicine, such as those located in the
18 Philippines, including any savings the State might
19 recover through such an endeavor.

20 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
21 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Department of Health; Physician Shortage; Study

Description:

Directs the DOH to perform a study to develop a pilot program to provide state-provided financial support to individuals pursuing a doctor of medicine degree in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawaii after they graduate. (HB1089 HD1)

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