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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a critical  
2 need for recruitment and retention of physicians to serve rural  
3 and medically underserved areas of the State. The shortage of  
4 physicians is as high as one thousand eight and is compounded by  
5 the fact that Hawaii has the fifth oldest physician workforce of  
6 all states, and more than half of the State's physicians will be  
7 over the age of sixty-five within ten years. The physician  
8 workforce assessment project has assisted with malpractice  
9 reform, thousands of hours of continuing education, loan  
10 repayment to physicians working in areas of need, preparation of  
11 local students for medical school, and communication with  
12 physicians regarding continuing education, and is working to  
13 make regional physician supply and demand maps and all available  
14 national data accessible on the Internet, as well as to hire a  
15 physician recruiter for all of Hawaii.

16           The legislature further finds that future efforts include  
17 providing bonuses for providers practicing in underserved areas,



1 the formation of an office of rural training for promoting  
2 practice in underserved areas in the State, state-matched loan  
3 repayment relief to new providers, and scholarships for medical  
4 students who practice in underserved areas. In many cases, the  
5 increasingly high cost of education for health care  
6 professionals binds graduates to a career path that provides  
7 sufficient income to repay costly student loans. These career  
8 paths most frequently lead to professional practice in highly  
9 specialized fields of care in urban areas rather than in general  
10 practice on the neighbor islands or in rural areas of the State  
11 where need is greatest. Expanding the use of funding received  
12 through the existing physician workforce assessment will allow  
13 Hawaii to act rapidly on tangible solutions to the physician  
14 workforce shortage to help address the ongoing need for a strong  
15 physician workforce.

16 The purpose of this Act is to:

17 (1) Repeal the requirement that no less than fifty per  
18 cent of the assessment fees deposited into the John A.  
19 Burns school of medicine special fund be used for  
20 purposes identified by the Hawaii medical education  
21 council;



- 1 (2) Repeal the monetary cap of expenditures from the  
2 John A. Burns school of medicine special fund; and
- 3 (3) Authorize the John A. Burns school of medicine special  
4 fund to provide loan repayment to physicians who  
5 commit to working in medically underserved areas of  
6 the State as part of the Hawaii rural health care  
7 provider loan repayment program and provide  
8 scholarships for qualifying medical students.

9 SECTION 2. Section 304A-2171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

11 "(c) Moneys in the special fund shall be used to support  
12 the John A. Burns school of medicine's activities related to  
13 physician workforce assessment and planning within Hawaii;  
14 provided that [e] the physician workforce assessment fees  
15 transferred and deposited into the special fund pursuant to  
16 section 453-8.8[~~, no less than fifty per cent of the total~~  
17 ~~amount of assessment fees deposited~~] shall be used for purposes  
18 identified by the Hawaii medical education council to support  
19 physician workforce assessment and planning efforts, including  
20 the recruitment and retention of physicians, for rural and  
21 medically underserved areas of the State[~~; provided further that~~



1 ~~expenditures from the special fund shall be limited to no more~~  
2 ~~than \$245,000 annually].~~ This shall include but not be limited  
3 to ~~[maintaining]~~:

4 (1) Maintaining accurate physician workforce assessment  
5 information and providing or updating personal and  
6 professional information, that shall be maintained in  
7 a secure database~~[+]~~;

8 (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to  
9 working in medically underserved areas of the State as  
10 part of the Hawaii rural health care provider loan  
11 repayment program administered by the John A. Burns  
12 school of medicine; and

13 (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying medical students  
14 to be determined by the John A. Burns school of  
15 medicine.

16 The John A. Burns school of medicine may disclose information  
17 specific to any physician only with the express written consent  
18 of that physician."

19 SECTION 3. Section 453-8.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read as follows:



1           "**§453-8.8 Physician workforce assessment fee; license;**  
2 **physician workforce information.** When a license is renewed,  
3 each physician or surgeon and each osteopathic physician or  
4 surgeon shall be assessed a fee of \$60 that shall be transferred  
5 and deposited into the John A. Burns school of medicine special  
6 fund established under section 304A-2171 to support ongoing  
7 assessment and planning of the physician workforce in Hawaii,  
8 including [~~engoi~~ng]:

9           (1) Ongoing assessment and planning, as well as the  
10           recruitment and retention of physicians, especially  
11           for the physician workforce serving rural and  
12           medically underserved areas of the State[=];

13           (2) Providing loan repayment to physicians who commit to  
14           working in medically underserved areas of the State as  
15           part of the Hawaii rural health care provider loan  
16           repayment program administered by the John A. Burns  
17           school of medicine; and

18           (3) Providing scholarships to qualifying medical students  
19           to be determined by the John A. Burns school of  
20           medicine.



1 Payment of the physician workforce assessment fee shall be  
2 required for license renewal."

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



**Report Title:**

Physician Workforce Assessment; John A. Burns School of Medicine  
Special Fund; Loan Repayment; Scholarship

**Description:**

Repeals the requirement that no less than fifty per cent of the physician workforce assessment fees deposited into the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund be used for purposes identified by the Hawaii medical education council. Repeals the monetary cap of expenditures from the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund. Authorizes the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund to provide loan repayment to certain physicians and scholarships to qualifying medical students. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD2)

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

