
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many Hawaii
2 residents are increasingly unable to obtain timely and
3 appropriate health care because of physician and dentist
4 shortages, which primarily affect the rural areas of the state.

5 Because of the need to repay student loans to fund a
6 physician's or dentist's increasingly high cost of professional
7 education, these health care professionals are discouraged from
8 working in shortage areas, which generally provide lower
9 financial earnings for medical professionals.

10 The legislature finds that the establishment of various
11 programs such as student loan repayment and state-funded
12 physician and dentist stipend programs may be used to encourage
13 and enable physicians and dentists to provide care in shortage
14 areas.

15 The purpose of this Act is to create a working group to
16 develop a plan to establish a program known as the Hawaii health
17 corps program to address physician and dentist shortages that
18 includes student loan repayment and stipend programs.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Hawaii health
2 corps program working group to be placed within the department
3 of business, economic development, and tourism, for
4 administrative purposes only, to develop a plan to create a
5 program to be known as the Hawaii health corps program that will
6 address physician and dentist shortages through programs such as
7 student loan repayments and stipends. The working group shall
8 be composed of:

- 9 (1) The director of health or the director's designee;
10 (2) The director of human services or the director's
11 designee;
12 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
13 tourism or the director's designee;
14 (4) The dean of the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns
15 school of medicine or the dean's designee;
16 (5) The administrator of the state health planning and
17 development agency or the administrator's designee;
18 (6) A member of the senate appointed by the senate
19 president; and
20 (7) A member of the house of representatives appointed by
21 the speaker of the house of representatives.



1 (b) The members of the working group shall designate a
2 chair from among its members.

3 (c) The working group shall develop a plan to establish
4 the Hawaii health corps program to include the following:

5 (1) Up to twenty qualified participants may be selected
6 each year to receive tuition loan repayments; provided
7 that there shall be not more than one hundred
8 participants at any given time;

9 (2) Qualified participants shall agree to serve in
10 underserved and rural areas, as designated by the
11 working group;

12 (3) Loan repayments to fully satisfy the loan of a
13 qualified participant in the Hawaii health corps
14 program shall be paid over a five-year period with a
15 minimum repayment of twenty per cent per year;

16 (4) Qualified participants shall serve a minimum of five
17 years in the Hawaii health corps program; provided
18 that participants who do not serve the full five years
19 shall repay all loan payments plus any interest as
20 determined by the working group;



1 (5) Priority placement in the Hawaii health corps program
2 will be for graduates of the University of Hawaii's
3 John A. Burns school of medicine;

4 (6) Persons shall be selected to serve in the Hawaii
5 health corps program regardless of specialty;

6 (7) Qualified participants in the Hawaii health corps
7 program shall commit to serve as first responders in
8 the event of a declared emergency, or at the request
9 of the director of health; and

10 (8) The Hawaii health corps program shall be administered
11 by the department of business, economic development,
12 and tourism.

13 (d) The Hawaii health corps program working group shall
14 prepare a plan to be fully implemented by January 1, 2010, and
15 submit the plan and any proposed legislation to the legislature
16 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
17 session of 2009.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 2519
H.D. 2
S.D. 2
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Hawaii Health Corps Program Working Group

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii health corps program working group to develop a plan to implement the Hawaii health corps program which will provide loan repayments to qualified physicians and dentists who agree to practice in rural or medically underserved areas of the state. (HB2519 CD1)

HB2519 CD1 HMS 2008-4059

