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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII HEALTHCARE  
WORKFORCE SIMULATION RESOURCE LABORATORIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that healthcare  
2 organizations take seriously their responsibility to deliver  
3 safe and competent care to patients and clients. Professions  
4 that have an inherent level of risk, such as the healthcare  
5 disciplines, are incorporating simulation as a means to train  
6 individuals and teams, and to help them learn new techniques and  
7 how to handle unanticipated and crisis situations without real  
8 life consequences.

9           The University of Hawaii nursing programs serve as a  
10 resource to aid the State's response to patient safety and  
11 nursing workforce demand. Simulation training favorably  
12 contributes to both of these outcomes by providing additional  
13 clinical experiences, expanding the teaching capacity for  
14 students, and preparing nurses through hands-on learning but  
15 without real life consequences. According to the Joint  
16 Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations'



1 September 2006 newsletter, simulation training can ensure  
2 patient safety in two ways:

- 3 (1) Allowing clinicians to gain experience with a wide  
4 range of specific scenarios, without necessitating  
5 that they practice on patients; and
- 6 (2) Helping staff to improve their skills and thereby  
7 providing their real-life patients with safer, higher-  
8 quality care.

9 Simulation training ranges from basic skills building, to  
10 the use of trained actors playing patients, to full-blown  
11 enactments of specific clinical scenarios such as a particularly  
12 difficult surgery, complete with electronic mannequins that are  
13 programmed to act and react like actual human patients.  
14 Dedicated simulation centers provide a wider range of simulated  
15 scenarios because the areas are designed to allow training to be  
16 recorded and reviewed more comprehensively, with simulation  
17 equipment already in place.

18 The legislature further finds that simulation training is a  
19 valuable tool when used in conjunction with classroom and  
20 clinical education. Simulation training can also offer a series  
21 of challenging simulated scenarios to provide effective  
22 continuing education for healthcare professionals and educate



1 multidisciplinary groups such as medical emergency teams or  
2 disaster-preparedness response teams. Finally, simulation can  
3 be used to certify the competency of the existing workforce.

4 The legislature recognizes that the operation of a clinical  
5 simulation laboratory by the University of Hawaii at Manoa  
6 school of nursing and dental hygiene has been embraced by  
7 faculty, students, and employers alike, and has resulted in  
8 improved learning outcomes that ultimately enhance patient  
9 safety. As such, the initial expenses associated with  
10 simulation are outweighed by the benefits to patients.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to  
12 establish a dedicated network of healthcare workforce simulation  
13 resource laboratories on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii, and  
14 Oahu for cross-disciplinary workforce education and training to  
15 improve communication, outcomes, and patient safety. Once  
16 established, the laboratories will serve as the community focal  
17 point for nurse, physician, emergency response, and other  
18 healthcare worker training and competency certification.  
19 Operating and staffing costs will be funded through contracts  
20 and fees.

21 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof



1 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and \$1 or so much  
2 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the  
3 University of Hawaii to:

- 4 (1) Establish a network of healthcare workforce simulation  
5 resource laboratories at Kauai community college, Maui  
6 community college, and the University of Hawaii at  
7 Hilo, jointly used and operated by the University of  
8 Hawaii at Hilo and the Hawaii community college; and  
9 (2) Expand the simulation laboratory at the University of  
10 Hawaii at Manoa, to be used in conjunction with  
11 Kapiolani community college.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
13 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

UH; Healthcare Workforce Simulation Resource Laboratories;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to expand and establish healthcare workforce simulation resource laboratories throughout the University of Hawaii system for healthcare workforce development and training.  
(HB669 HD1)

