With an innovative medical education program, problem-based learning, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine is increasingly recognized as a leading medical education institution. Since it was established in 1965, it has trained 1,524 physicians, many of whom remain in Hawai'i and helped raise the level of healthcare in Hawai'i. Now its goal is to build new, modern facilities and become a research medical school of distinction.

The school will relocate to a site in Kaka'ako, on the waterfront between downtown and Waikiki on the island of O'ahu, where state-owned land has the necessary infrastructure improvements to sustain a 450,000-square-foot facility. The state-of-the-art research campus and dynamic new leadership should attract some of the best researchers and educators in medicine. The new facility is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2005.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine has more than tripled its share of research grants and contracts this year, receiving more than $37 million from external sources in FY2002. The Pacific Biomedical Research Center's 25 faculty members attract $22 million for research and training grants. The new medical center is expected to develop another $50-80 million a year in new research support, tapping the more than $30 billion available for biomedical research through federal and private resources. (NIH alone provides more than $20 billion in biomedical research funding.) The 36 percent overhead paid by NIH will underwrite medical school operating costs and help make the school an economic engine for the university, the state economy and a growing Pacific biotechnology industry.

State plans for Kaka'ako include building an incubator center (leasable research space) to provide biotechnology and bioscience companies space and support within a campus-like environment. A major medical research center with surrounding space for these companies, as well as Honolulu's technology infrastructure and ties to Asia, will make Honolulu a prime environment for the growing technology and biomedical research industries and position Hawai'i as an international leader in healthcare, science and technology.