

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2007

RE: S.B. No. 167  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 167  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LOANS FOR HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to address the healthcare  
workforce shortage in Hawaii.

Specifically, this measure establishes interest-free home  
purchase loan programs for physicians and advanced practice  
registered nurses to provide them with an incentive to work in  
hard-to-staff rural areas.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the  
Consumer Lawyers of Hawaii, Hawai'i Association of Professional  
Nurses, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and Hawaii Psychiatric  
Medical Association. The Department of Health submitted testimony  
supporting the intent of this measure.

Your Committee finds that the shortage of healthcare  
professionals in rural areas is a major problem that has a huge  
impact on the health of Hawaii's rural residents and communities.  
The high cost of obtaining a medical education prevents many  
professionals from being able to take positions in rural areas  
that usually provide lower compensation than what is generally  
paid in urbanized areas. Providing interest-free home loans to  
physicians and advanced practice registered nurses working at



least forty hours a week in a rural health facility will provide meaningful incentives to bring much needed health care providers to the State's rural areas.

Your Committee notes the concern that the administration of the loan program established in this measure is not within the expertise of the Department of Health and finds the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is a more suitable entity to oversee the program.

Your Committee amended this measure to place the loan program under the administration of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 167, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 167, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,




DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health**  
**HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 167	Committee Referral: HTH, WAM	Date: 2/14/07		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
MENOR, Ron	✓			
WHALEN, Paul	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:            Original            Yellow            Pink File with Committee Report            Clerk's Office            Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes