



LATE TESTIMONY

March 19, 2008

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

Health Committee

Wednesday
3/19/08
9:15am
Room 329

To: Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair
House Health Committee

From: Cynthia J. Goto, M.D., President
Linda Rasmussen, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Philip Hellreich, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Paula Arcena, Executive Director
Dick Botti, Government Affairs Liaison

Re: HCR 226/HR193 Requesting the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine to provide admission preference to students that mirrors the demographics of rural health professional shortage areas of the state to address the shortage of physicians on our neighbor islands.

The Hawaii Medical Association supports the intent of HCR 226 to increase the physician workforce in rural areas of Hawaii. However, we have concerns that giving admission preference to students from rural areas will compromise academic criteria in favor of geographic criteria.

Instead, we suggest the committee focus its attention on HB2519, HD2, which would establish the Hawaii Health Corps, providing loan repayment and stipends for physicians and dentists who agree to work in health professional shortage areas and as first responders during civil defense and other emergencies. HB2519, HD2 also would establish the Enterprise Zone Business Tax Credit, general excise tax exemption and other business incentives to include physicians and dentists who establish or maintain practices in designated areas.

We believe HB2519 represents a more meaningful way to address the physician shortage in rural areas than does HCR 226.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE CONSUMER LAWYERS OF HAWAII (CLH) IN SUPPORT OF H.C.R. NO. 226 AND H.R. NO. 193

January 29, 2008

To: Chairman Josh Green and Members of the House Committee on Health:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Consumer Lawyers of Hawaii (CLH) in support of H.C.R. No. 226 and H.R. 193.

The purpose of these resolutions is to address the shortage of physicians in rural areas and in particular in the neighbor islands. CLH has previously stated that a program which encourages and even subsidizes persons from a rural area who intends to go to medical school is one alternative to address the shortage problem in these areas.

CLH supports the idea of JABSOM providing some preference to students that are from the neighbor islands where there is a shortage of physicians provided that it is not contrary to any federal or state law.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.