

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE CONSUMER
LAWYERS OF HAWAII (CLH) IN SUPPORT OF S.B. NO. 2589**

February 4, 2008

To: Chairman David Ige and Members of the Senate 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 S.B. No. 2589.

CLH agrees with and supports the purpose of the bill which attempts to create a rural medical practice loan repayment program for the University of Hawaii Medical School graduates who practice in the rural areas of the state. CLH has always advocated for alternatives to provide health care in the underserved and rural areas especially on the neighbor islands. The concept in this bill is definitely worthy of discussion and funding. It provides a meaningful incentive for physicians.

CLH has submitted testimony in prior sessions advocating for alternatives such as this to create incentives to increase the number of physicians that would practice in our rural or underserved areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.