

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 6, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 691

H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 691
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to ensure access to health care
in rural areas by establishing the Hawaii Rural Health Care
Provider Loan Repayment Program (Program) to provide student loan
repayments to qualified physicians who practice in federally
designated health professional shortage areas of the state.

The Hawaii Primary Care Association, Hawaii Medical Service
Association, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii,
Hawaii Medical Association, and Hawaii Association for Justice,
and a concerned individual supported this bill. The Department of
Budget and Finance opposed this measure. The Department of Health
submitted comments.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:


- (1) Providing preference for participation in the Program
for licensed physicians who have graduated from a school
of medicine and have received Hawaii-based medical
training;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2020, to
encourage further discussion; and



- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for clarity, consistency, and style.

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 H.B. No. 691, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 691, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

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



RYAN I. YAMANE, Chair



