

# HB 991 HD 2

**Measure  
Title:**

**RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII.**

**Report  
Title:**

**UH; Loan Repayments**

**Description:**

**Establishes the Hawaii Medical  
Doctor Loan Repayment Program for  
University of Hawaii medical school  
graduates and medical school  
graduates with training from Hawaii  
based medical program working in  
rural areas of the state. (HB991  
HD2)**

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 991, H.D. 2

March 18, 2009

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

House Bill No. 991, H.D. 2, establishes a Hawaii Medical Doctor Loan program that would provide financial support to students who complete a State-approved medical school program at the University of Hawaii, or graduates of a medical school who have received medical training from a Hawaii-based medical program. Graduates that agree to practice in rural areas of the State would be eligible for the program. The program would be financed by the Hawaii Medical Doctor Loan program revolving fund created by this bill. House Bill No. 991, H.D. 2, appropriates unspecified sums from the general fund each year of the biennium for deposit into the revolving fund to carry out the program.

As a matter of general policy, this department **does not support** the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-53.4 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.

# HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 18, 2009

The Honorable David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senate Committees on Health and Higher Education

**Re: HB 991 HD2 – Relating to the University of Hawaii**

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 991 HD1.

States across the country are attempting to attract physicians through the implementation of innovative programs such as the loan repayment program in HB 991 HD2. A loan repayment program offered in tandem with the John A. Burns' School of Medicine's rural residency program will make practicing in rural areas of the state more attractive and feasible for newly graduated physicians.

As you may know, the HMSA Foundation has supported the development of the University of Hawaii's family medicine training program in Hilo through a three year grant of \$535,000 beginning in 2007. We believe that programs such as these enhance physician recruitment for Neighbor Island practices by exposing students to Neighbor Island life, culture and communities.

HMSA is working to ensure that our members have access to the services they need wherever they may reside in the State. This includes working with community partners to facilitate recruitment of physicians as well as supporting initiatives such as the rural residency program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would respectfully urge the Committee's support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JDiesman", written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Diesman  
Assistant Vice President  
Government Relations



## Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax:  
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To: **The Senate Committee on Health**  
The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

**The Senate Committee on Higher Education**  
The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
The Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 991, HD 2**  
**RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**  
**Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO**  
**March 18, 2009, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association asks your support for this bill. We believe a loan repayment program will be a very powerful tool for recruiting and retaining health care professionals in underserved areas. It is all too apparent that Hawaii has an urgent need for such a program at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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**Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 2:45 P.M., CR 016**

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association  
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President  
Philip Hellreich, MD, Legislative Co-Chair  
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair  
April Donahue, Executive Director  
Richard C. Botti, Government Affairs  
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: HB 991 RELATING TO U of H MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES

**Chairs & Committee Members:**

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure as being a unique means of addressing our rural area physician shortage. While it is long range, it is a solid method of helping to accomplish a number of long-term goals, such as:

- Create home grown physicians for our rural communities;
- Assure that many of our graduates and residents will be able to remain in Hawaii;
- Increase the opportunity for professional employment and/or entrepreneurial opportunities in our rural communities; and
- Address our access to medical care crisis with long range planning.

This investment now will provide not only a return on investment in these long-term goals, but will also provide taxpayers of the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Hawaii Medical Association  
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Suite 200  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
(808) 536-7702  
(808) 528-2376 fax  
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To: Committee on Health  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

Date: 03-18-09 2:45 PM in Conference Room 016

Re: **HB 991, HD2, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chairs Ige and Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is Jackie Boland and I'm an Associate State Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 160,000 members in Hawaii. We are submitting testimony **in support of HB 991, HD2** which establishes the Hawaii Medical Doctor Loan Repayment Program for University of Hawaii medical school graduates and medical school graduates with training from a Hawaii-based medical program working in rural areas of the state.

It is no secret that Hawaii experiences a critical shortage of physicians and that the problem is getting worse as doctors retire or leave the islands. This is a measure that would help to address the growing problem of physician shortages in the state, especially in rural areas and on the neighbor islands. We believe the situation will only worsen with the health care needs of Hawaii's aging population. AARP notes that the number of people age 65 and older in the state is projected to grow by about 86% in the next two decades. Our own AARP members on the neighbor islands report that they are having trouble getting care when they need it.

AARP believes that all individuals have a right to health care services and that government has the responsibility to develop a system that ensures access to health care services for all individuals. This should include physical and mental health services with special consideration to ensuring access for minorities, people with disabilities and those who reside in medically underserved communities.

We urge you to pass this measure that would support physician recruitment and retention in underserved areas in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII  
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN SUPPORT OF HB No. 991, HD 2,  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

**March 18, 2009**

To: Chairman David Ige and Chairperson Jill Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (formerly known as CLH\*) in Support of H.B. No. 991, HD 2.

This is a positive approach in attempting to solve the access problem of health care providers in rural areas. The Hawaii Medical Doctor Loan Program is one way to help recruit and keep physicians practicing in the rural areas of our state. During the years that we have been involved in the issue of access to health care providers in rural areas, our research indicates that other states that have programs similar to this have been more successful in attracting physicians to rural areas, and HAJ wholeheartedly supports this bill.

HAJ also strongly supports the appropriation of funds at this time to move this program forward in spite of the current economic situation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of H.B. No. 991, HD 2.

\* CLH has changed its name to conform to the name of its national organization the American Association for Justice.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 8:52 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** dand@punahealth.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB991 on 3/18/2009 2:45:00 PM

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH/HRE 3/18/2009 2:45:00 PM HB991

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dan Domizio PA/MPH  
Organization: Puna Community Medical Center  
Address: 15-2662 Pahoia Village Rd, Ste 306 Pahoia, HI  
Phone: 808-930-6001  
E-mail: [dand@punahealth.org](mailto:dand@punahealth.org)  
Submitted on: 3/16/2009

**Comments:**

Representatives Ige and Tokuda, Chairpersons Respected committee members;

We are writing in strong support of HB991. Helping defray the rising costs of medical education is a powerful inducement to your practitioners to remain in service to our rural communities. we urge you to make this possible by passing this bill.

Thank You

Dan Domizio PA/MPH  
Clinical Programs Director  
Puna Community Med Ctr.