

**HB 991**

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 991, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

April 2, 2009

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

House Bill No. 991, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, 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, S.D. 1, 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



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April 2, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Re: HB 991 HD2 SD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii**

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 991 HD2 SD1.

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 SD1. 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 'JD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman  
Assistant Vice President  
Government Relations



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**Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 am, CR 211**

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, 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.

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