



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 17, 2009

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Yamane and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 169 SD2 – RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CORPS

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Department of Health (DOH).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS SB 169 SD2**. This bill establishes the Hawaii Health Corps Program to address physician shortages in rural areas of the State; establishes a loan repayment program, an incentive plan for the recruitment of health care professionals to serve shortage areas, and makes an appropriation to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

SB 169 SD2 would assist in recruiting physicians and dentists to provide medical and dental care services for individuals with DD, especially in underserved and rural areas. Access to medical and dental care is often challenging for individuals with DD and their families due to numerous factors, such as limited number of health professionals, especially specialists, willing physicians and dentists to accept Medicaid participants, special needs of individuals, and transportation.

The provisions in SB 169 SD2 presents a multi-faceted approach to address the shortage of and increase in access to health care professionals. The Council applauds the Legislature's initiative and foresight to address the shortage of physicians and dentists through the establishment of the Hawaii Health Corps Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony supporting SB 169 SD2.

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator


Rosie Rowe
Chair



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Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 8:30am, CR 329

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, 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: SB 169 RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CORPS

Establishes the Hawaii health corps program to address physician shortages in rural areas of the State; establishes a loan repayment program and an incentive plan for the recruitment of health care professionals to serve shortage areas. (SD2)

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:

- Assure that many of our JABSOM graduates 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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Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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To: **House Committee on Health**
The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 169, SD 2
Relating to Hawaii Health Corps
Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO
March 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m. agenda, Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association urges your support for this bill. Of all the proposed measures that would improve recruitment and retention of key health care providers in underserved areas, this is one of the most comprehensive. We support it because it

- addresses both physician and dentist shortages;
- provides a flexible stipend that could be used for loan repayment but could also be applied to level other economic challenges in serving underserved areas;
- identifies a critical clinical workforce to serve in the event of an emergency situation.

We do ask the Committee to change "§ -14 Preference and selection" to read:

(a) In selecting repayment participants, the department shall give first priority preference to:

(1) Graduates of the university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine **or other program that trains physicians in Hawaii;**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: sierra [sierra@alohabroadband.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 10:36 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 169 SD2 (SSCR823)

HAWAII DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
FROM: SIERRA SPRUCE, RDH - CHAIR REGULATION & PRACTICE COMM.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 169,SD2 (SSCR823)
RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CORPS

COMMITTEE HEARING-----TUESDAY MARCH 17, 2009 - 8:30 AM - ROOM 329

DEAR CHAIRMAN YAMANE, VICE CHAIR NISHIMOTO, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

THE HAWAII DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THIS BILL, ESTABLISHING AND SETTING FUNCTIONAL PARAMETERS FOR THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS. WE ARE FACING AN ACUTE CRISIS IN RETAINING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN HAWAII.

ON THE BIG ISLAND WHERE I RESIDE AND WORK WE HAVE LOST MANY PHYSICIANS IN THE LAST 2 YEARS. AS THIS RELATES TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS----IN MY PRACTICING 22 YEARS ON THE BIG ISLAND, WE HAVE ALWAYS EXPERIENCED A SHORTAGE OF HYGIENISTS HERE AND ON OTHER NEIGHBOR ISLANDS. ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM LIKE THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS WILL HELP TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM BY ALLOWING FOR RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS INCLUDING DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO THIS BILL.

MAHALO,

SIERRA SPRUCE ,RDH

HAWAII SOCIETY OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

1481 S. King Street, Suite 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dr. Kevin Gibson
Legislative Committee Member

**TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH**

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

SB 169, SD2

For a hearing scheduled Tuesday March 17, 2009 at 8:30 AM,
Conference Room 329.

March 15, 2009

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the
Committee:

I am Dr. Kevin Gibson, licensed naturopathic physician and
acupuncturist, and registered environmental specialist. I serve on
the Naturopathic Board of Examiners, but I am testifying on behalf
of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians (HSNP) who
write in **SUPPORT of SB 169, SD2.**

Naturopathic physicians should be included in SB 169's definition

of recruitment and repayment health care professionals for the Hawaii Health Corps.

To exclude naturopathic physicians is discriminatory and unfair.

Naturopathic physicians are primary care physicians whose education and training far exceeds that of many of the other health care professionals who are included in this definition. Their contribution to primary care in the state of Hawaii is substantial, and will be even more so if they are included in this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your serious consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Gibson, ND, LAc