

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) formerly known as the CONSUMER
LAWYERS OF HAWAII (CLH) IN SUPPORT OF S.B. No. 416**

February 18, 2009

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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 Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in Support of S.B. No. 416.

Our organization has been involved in the issue of physician shortages in rural Oahu and on the neighbor islands for several years. Our research shows that economic incentives are needed to recruit and retain doctors for rural Oahu and on the neighbor island to offset the higher cost of living and generally lower income potential. This measure is a positive approach to increasing the supply of doctors in Health Professional Shortage Areas throughout the State. HAJ wholeheartedly supports this bill and is of the opinion that funds should be appropriated at this time in spite of the current economic situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Support of S.B. No. 416.