

**SB 1046**

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2009

Support of S.B. 1046, Relating to Health Professional Education

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Friday February 27, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211

Appropriates funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.

My name is David Lovell and I strongly support S.B. 1046, relating to Health Professional Education.

**As a private citizen, I am compelled to testify in support of this bill because I am LIVING proof that this program works.**

Many years ago, a soon-to-be graduate from the John A. Burns School of Medicine came to the Big Island as part of the Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program. She did her residency at the school's Department of Family Medicine and was part of their early Rural Residency Program. This young and talented MD then returned again to become part of the Bay Clinic Community Health. She became my Primary Care Physician and was the first to notice that my health was not quite right.


Because of Dr. Melanie Arakaki's persuasiveness and keen medical eye, she averted what could have been a negative outcome. Today I am here after successful bypass surgery.

Dr. Arakaki is one of many health professionals who have relocated to the Big Island as a direct result of their exposure to this community through the Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program. The professionals rarely make conscious decisions to come to rural areas unless they are immersed into its midst and are able to experience the people, culture and customs first hand.

Please support S.B. 1046. Our community's health depends on it!

Respectfully Submitted,

**David  
Lovell**

 Digitally signed by David Lovell  
DN: cn=David Lovell, o=RCUH,  
ou=Hilo, email=lovell@hawaii.  
edu, c=US  
Date: 2009.02.25 12:07:52 -10'00'

David Lovell