

SCR 178



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Touching Lives Every Day"

**Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 22, 2010
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016
Hawaii State Capitol**

SCR 178 and SR 79 - URGING HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO ACCEPT MEDICAL STUDENT ROTATIONS FROM A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE BASED OUT OF THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, AND OTHER HAWAII-BASED MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

**Testimony of Alice M. Hall, Esq.
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 178 and SR 79 regarding Medical Student rotations at the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation hospitals.

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation's mandate is to operate a hospitals system with a mission to provide the state's health care safety net service. As a hospital system operating primarily in rural areas, we recognize a shortage of qualified health care professionals exists and are concerned with recruitment and retention of healthcare providers.

Although serving as a training hospital is outside of HHSC's statutory mandate and core mission, HHSC welcomes medical student interns and residents at our respective facilities. We currently have numerous affiliation agreements with various medical schools and other university programs (including medical and other healthcare professionals, e.g., pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy), and accept student interns and medical residents in HHSC facilities. A process exists wherein qualified medical schools and programs directly contact the respective hospitals, work with the medical staff officers, and develop an affiliation agreement with HHSC to accept placements.

We appreciate the importance of addressing the need for physicians in rural areas and interest in placement of medical students at HHSC hospitals. However, we suggest that this resolution is not necessary because a process and practice is already in place for accepting medical students and residents at HHSC hospitals.

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www.hhsc.org <<http://www.hhsc.org>>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2010 9:38 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: sbradley@wcchc.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR178 on 3/22/2010 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 3/22/2010 2:45:00 PM SCR178

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephen P Bradley MD
Organization: Individual
Address: 86-260 Farrington Hwy Waianae, HI
Phone: (808) 697-3490
E-mail: sbradley@wcchc.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2010

Comments:

We have a unique opportunity to fill a recognized need of primary care physicians in our state with a constant supply of qualified individuals for the foreseeable future. Please vote in favor of of this bill. Thank you

Testimony in Support of SCR 178

Date: 3/21/2010

ATTN: **Committee on Health**
Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: 3/22/10
HEARING TIME: 2:45 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 016

SCR 178 - Resolution

Urging Hawaii Health Systems Corporation hospitals and clinics to accept medical student rotations from A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine based out of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, and other Hawaii-based medical schools.

Dear Committee Members:

As you know, the shortage of primary care health care providers is a pressing issue of concern for the majority of cities and states in the USA, and, Hawaii is no exception. I appreciate this opportunity to provide you with a brief explanation of why this resolution addresses those needs with particular acuity.

Studies show that a medical student is more likely to practice medicine where he/she is trained. This is the basis for the entire existence of A.T. Still University's (ATSU) School of Osteopathic Medicine. ATSU has partnered with the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) to embed students in CHCs in medically underserved communities for the last 3 of the 4 years of medical school. . In doing this, ATSU and the NACHC have ambitiously sought to provide tangible solutions to the physician shortage nationwide; specifically, **starting next year, over 100 physicians will graduate from ATSU annually, each with 3 years of exposure and practice in a CHC in an underserved area.** These students will statistically be more likely to return to practice in those underserved communities. **Additionally, ATSU employs several tiers of screening to ensure that each of its incoming students has a demonstrable interest not only in serving in underserved areas, but in doing so at that particular site.**

Medical students from this university choose to come here, often enduring multiple hardships in both financial & emotional terms, often having to leave their families & friends behind; this, after having already seen the difficulties of providing primary care to our neediest in rural Hawaii. Most already have ties to our state, some are children of our land, & have gone out of state to pursue their medical education. They are, to a fault, intelligent, prepared, energetic & empathetic with a professional formation that stresses the consideration of the whole person in providing healing; exactly what patients all over the country are crying out for today. In the institutions that are currently accepting them for clinical rotations, there has been overwhelming appreciation of their capabilities & compassion.

It is unconscionable that, in a time of dramatic healthcare reform, that future healers, so vital to primary healthcare delivery in our state, be impeded in the pursuit of knowledge to this end. The presence of these students in CHC's throughout the USA was driven by multiple, respected studies showing that, in the near future, there would be a dearth of primary care physicians to treat the burgeoning healthcare needs of an aging population. These effects are most likely to be even more felt in Hawaii. We are in the midst of a revolution in the methodology of training just such professionals & multiple students are already planning to remain & serve our population, especially on outer islands where the need is even more urgent.

What we all desire, as patients, is an empathetic, locally available, excellently trained physician who understands our, and our communities', problems. ATSU has taken this mission to heart and is proceeding in the training of just such a healer. I implore that their paths not be made more difficult in this calling

but, rather, be fostered by allowing them full access to the training opportunities that befit the future caretakers of the people of Hawaii. What a shame it would be if these dedicated individuals would have to abandon their dreams of caring for all of us because they found all the doors closed to their pursuit of excellence in education.

Sincerely,

Stephen P Bradley MD
Associate Medical Director WCCHC
Associate Professor ATSU

Testimony in Support of SCR 178

Date: 3/22/2010

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As you know, the shortage of health care providers is a pressing issue of concern for the majority of cities and states in the USA, and, as this resolutions' whereas statements detail, the needs in much of Hawaii are of particular concern to many in our state. I appreciate this opportunity to provide you with a brief explanation of why this resolution addresses those needs with particular acuity.

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To date, it has been difficult for the ATSU students to secure training rotations in many Hawaii Health Systems Corporation hospitals, largely for reasons that stem more from competitiveness and resistance to change than from logistical issues. This is a very frustrating for the students, because it creates doubt and concern about their ability to complete their training here instead of returning to the mainland to do so. If they are not supported by the hospitals and state in training, they will rather look for an underserved area that takes a more supportive role in accommodating them. **As you can see, this resolution is very important to these ATSU students, as it directly affects their ability to train in Hawaii now, and return to practice in Hawaii later.** For this reason, I strongly urge you to pass this resolution.

Sincerely,

Christina K. Lee, MD

Testimony in Support of SCR 178

Date: 3/21/2010

ATTN: **Committee on Health**
Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

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To date, it has been difficult for my classmates and me to secure training rotations in many Hawaii Health Systems Corporation hospitals, largely for reasons that stem more from competitiveness and resistance to change than from logistical issues. This is very frustrating as a student, because it creates doubt and concern about our ability to complete our training here instead of returning to the mainland to do so. I know I am not alone among my classmates when I say that this is the most concerning setback to my plans to return to this island to practice as a physician; if I am not supported by the hospitals and state in training, I would rather look for an underserved area that takes a more supportive role in accommodating me. **As you can see, this resolution is very important to me and my classmates, as it directly affects our ability to train in Hawaii now, and return to practice in Hawaii later.** For this reason, I strongly urge you to pass this resolution.

Sincerely,

Michael Allard

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For the past decade I have practiced rural Family Medicine, as a Physician Assistant, in Alaskan Island villages and CHCs with similar patient populations to Hawaii. I decided to return to medical school because I knew I had more to offer my patients. I chose ATSU because of its vision and the opportunity it offered me to train and hopefully practice Family Medicine as a physician in Hawaii, where my family has resided for over 100 years. My roots are here in Hawaii and I feel a deep sense of purpose in being here. I am now based here in Hawaii at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center where I am training and assisting in providing care for a largely underserved population with special needs. My desire is to train here also in my residency in Family Practice and then practice on one of the Islands CHCs. If this resolution does not pass I am uncertain as to what our training options and my future here will be.

To date, it has been difficult for my classmates and me to secure training rotations in many Hawaii Health Systems Corporation hospitals, largely for reasons that stem more from competitiveness and resistance to change than from logistical issues. This is a very frustrating as a student, because it creates doubt and concern about our ability to complete our training here instead of returning to the mainland to do so. I know I am not alone among my classmates when I say that this is the most concerning setback to my plans to return to this island to practice as a physician; if I am not supported by the hospitals and state in training, I would rather look for an underserved area that takes a more supportive role in accommodating me. As you can see, this resolution is very important to me and my classmates, as it directly affects our ability to train in Hawaii now, and return to practice in Hawaii later. For this reason, I strongly urge you to pass this resolution.

Sincerely,
Carlann DeFontes

Testimony in Support of SCR 178

Date: 3/21/2010

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Sincerely,

Alister Mix

March 22, 2010

To: Committee on Health

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR178:

Urging Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Hospitals and Clinics to Accept Medical Student Rotations from A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine based out of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, and other Hawaii-Based Medical Schools.

Aloha,

I'm a medical student from Hilo who would like to stay in Hawaii and eventually practice in Hawaii. For me and other Hawaii based medical students being able to continue our medical education within the state is a tremendous factor playing into where we will eventually practice.

We need to start training doctors that will stay in Hawaii and take care of our own local people. With two accredited Medical Schools in Hawaii, one obvious long term solution is to **"Grow Our Own."** Unfortunately, except for Kona Community Hospital, no other HHSC hospital has accepted medical students.

"The ability to bring new caregivers to practice in the community health center ensures that our hospitals will be able to provide necessary health care services to residents and visitors in this health professional shortage area."

Mahalo,
Rio Cole
2nd Year Medical Student

To the COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Dear Committee Members,

I am a medical student and a resident of this state and I truly believe that medical students whether they are from ATSU SOMA based out of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center or the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine in Honolulu deserve the same opportunities especially when it comes to rotations and residencies. This state needs more doctors who know the community, want stay, live and work here. There is no doubt that this nation is facing a shortage in physicians, a shortage that is only going to get worse, especially in the underserved areas. It is then imperative that this state takes steps to ensure there are enough doctors in Hawaii for the years to come. As the ATSU SOMA students based out of Hawaii we are aware of the various healthcare problems this state faces and the majority of us wants to stay and practice here if given the opportunity. I am such an example; I have been living in Hawaii for the last four years and my family and I fell in love with this state. My two sons were born here, my husband works for the State of Hawaii and the Hawaii Army National Guard and we want to stay here. By giving students like me an opportunity to rotate in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation hospitals and clinics, you will provide us with an exceptional quality of training while enabling us to serve the population that truly needs our healthcare services. This resolution is not only of vital importance to me and my fellow ATSU SOMA students based in Waianae but it also affects the future of the healthcare system in Hawaii.

Justyna Wadolowski, OMS II

March 22, 2010

To: Committee on Health – Senator David Y. Ige, Chair and Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 178: URGING HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION (HHSC) HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO ACCEPT MEDICAL STUDENT ROTATIONS FROM A. T. STILL UNIVERISTY SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE BASED OUT OF THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER (WCCHC), THE UNIVERISTY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, AND OTHER HAWAII-BASED MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Aloha,

There is a physician shortage in Hawaii and it will only get worse. This shortage impacts healthcare for the poor and underserved the most. In many ways the impact is being felt on the neighbor islands with the lack of specialists and primary care doctors, and the difficulty recruiting staff at the Community Health Centers and HHSC Hospitals. Presently, WCCHC is feeling the provider shortage with three doctors resigning, two nurse practitioners retiring and three physicians going on maternity leave.

We need to start training doctors that will stay in Hawaii and take care of our own local people, especially in underserved areas. With two accredited Medical Schools in Hawaii, one obvious long term solution is to “**Grow Our Own.**” Exposure to rural and community medicine early has been shown to influence the specialty decisions and locations where doctors practice. Unfortunately, except for Kona Community Hospital, no other HHSC hospital has accepted medical students.

A recent \$18.5 million dollar emergency appropriation request by HHSC contained the language: *“The ability to bring new caregivers to practice in the community health center ensures that our hospitals will be able to provide necessary health care services to residents and visitors in this health professional shortage area.” HB2801*

Training young, influential medical minds in a rural and underserved setting enhances the ability to bring new caregivers to practice in the community. Out of the two medical students we have sent to Kona, one already wants to become a pediatrician and she is already talking about practicing in Kona. That is the strength and effect of training medical students on the Neighbor Islands.

For those who argue that training diminishes efficiency and that students get in the way, please remember; *“I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant: I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow”.* Hippocratic Oath

Mahalo,

Ricardo C. Custodio, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor, ATSU Hawaii Campus
Medical and Training Director, WCCHC