

HB 1203

HD2, SD1



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Comments Submitted to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 9:30 am
By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
And
Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM, Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1203, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the Committee. My name is Jerris Hedges and I serve as the Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB 1203, HD2, SD1, which would eliminate the sunset date of June 30, 2012 for the Physician Workforce Assessment of \$60 (\$30 per year) which is assessed on all new and renewal (biennial) medical and osteopathic licenses issued in Hawai'i. The fee is used to support the ongoing assessment and planning related to the physician workforce in Hawai'i, the ultimate goal of which is to address the shortage of physicians.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (See Attachment for Specific Language):

We respectfully request that the language of the bill be amended to permit JABSOM to use the funds toward supporting the physician shortages on the neighbor islands.

Through the implementation of Act 18, SLH 2009, the physician workforce has been carefully studied resulting in the documented finding that we now face a significant shortfall of practicing physicians. While anecdotal information was available in the past, the data obtained through the study are invaluable to targeting shortage areas within the medical profession and identifying geographic locations where the shortage of physicians is most pronounced. The study confirmed physician shortages on the neighbor islands, which may be supported through the use of the funds

We urge this Committee to pass HB 1203 with our suggested amendments.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

[H]§453-8.8[H] Physician workforce assessment fee; license; physician workforce information. (a) Upon each renewal of a license issued pursuant to this chapter, each physician or surgeon and each osteopathic physician or surgeon shall be assessed a fee of \$60 that shall be transferred and deposited into the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund established under section 304A-2171 to support physician shortages on the neighbor islands as well as ongoing assessment and planning of the physician workforce in Hawaii[-] in collaboration with residency programs in this State and the Hawaii medical board to address:

- (1) Adequate reimbursement to physicians by private and government payors;
- (2) The portability and reciprocity of physician licenses between and among state jurisdictions;
- (3) Enhancing the use of telemedicine with exploration of responsible regulatory oversight;
- (4) Continuing medical education requirements;
- (5) Advancing the medical home model; and
- (6) Implementing communications technologies to inform physicians of developments impacting the practice of medicine including new regulatory requirements, federal health care reform, and improved quality of care issues.

Payment of the physician workforce assessment fee shall be required for license renewal.

(b) The John A. Burns school of medicine shall annually submit a report on its assessment and planning activities pursuant to subsection (a), including findings, policy recommendations, and expenditures to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session."

SECTION 3. Act 18, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, is amended by amending section 9 to read as follows:

"SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009~~;~~ ~~provided that sections 3 and 4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2012]."~~

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 20~~30~~11.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Wednesday, March 30, 2011
9:30 a.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1203, H.D. 2, S.D.1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN
WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Hawaii Medical Board ("Board") thanks you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. No. 1203, H.D.2, S.D.1. The purpose of this bill is to remove the cap on expenditures from the John A. Burns school of medicine ("JABSOM") special fund; specify that the physician workforce assessment fee shall be used to support physician workforce assessment in collaboration with residency programs in this State and the Board to address specified issues; and require an annual report to the legislature.

A similar bill, S.B. No. 240, S.D.1, was heard by this Committee on February 25, 2011, and passed out as an S.D. 2, correctly reflecting the current version of Act 18, Special Session Laws of Hawaii and changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

Subsequently, the Senate bill crossed over and was heard by the House Committee on Health on March 22, 2011 and passed out as an H.D. 1. The amendments made by the House Committee:

1. specify that the portion of the fee that was to be used for workforce assessment and planning shall be used to:
 - (A) address communication of federal health care reform and implementation of the Affordable Care Act;
 - (B) develop and support the medical home mode; and
 - (C) support increases in physician reimbursements.
2. extend the repeal date of the fee and the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund, as amended by this measure, to July 1, 2015.

With regard to H.B. No. 1203, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, the Board is in support of this measure as it reflects language recommended by JABSOM and the Board, and requests that the effective date be changed to July 1, 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this bill.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 9:30 a.m, Conference Room 211

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Morris Mitsunaga, MD, President
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: HB 1203, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT

The HMA supports the concept of this bill but would ask for the following minor amendment to Section 9:

"SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009[; ~~provided that sections 3 and 4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2012~~] and shall be opened and assessed by the legislature for alternative funding sources effective June 30, 2015."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

OFFICERS

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