

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 958 – Relating to Hawaii Health Corps

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 958 which would create the Hawaii Health Corps to assist health care providers practicing in rural areas and shortage areas through a loan repayment program.

HMSA is acutely aware of the issue of access to health care, especially in rural areas of the state. The proposed program outlined in HB 958 builds on the often cited notion that individuals will end up practicing where their residency requirements were performed. Providing loan repayments with a preference to John A. Burns School of Medicine graduates who agree to practice in rural areas lacking appropriate providers, will likely further serve to root these individuals into our community.

We support this worthy program and hope that the Committee sees fit to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations

"Health care that is safe, health care that works, and health care that leaves no one behind"

**EAST HAWAII
REGIONAL BOARD**

Robert Irvine, M.D.
Chair

Brenda Ho, R.N., M.S.
Vice-Chair

Carol Iadecola-Myrianthis, Psy.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Christine Beck, APRN

Susan B. Hunt, MHA

Brian Iwata, CPA

Dennis Lee, M.D.

Craig Shikuma, M.D.

Leonard Tanaka

Diana Van De Car, Esq.

Hany Yada

Gary Yoshiyama

**EAST HAWAII
CORPORATE BOARD**

Howard N. Ainsley

Carol VanCamp

House of Representatives
Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

February 4, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329
Hawaii State Capitol

HB 958 RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CORPS.

This bill establishes the Hawaii health corps program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in any county having a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to in rural areas. Provides for loan repayments by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Makes appropriations to support accreditation efforts and support and expand residency programs, particularly in family medicine.

Howard N. Ainsley
East Hawaii Regional CEO
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 958. The East Hawaii region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation fully supports the intent of this bill, which will enable the Big Island and other rural communities throughout the state of Hawaii an improved access to quality health care.

As the CEO of the sponsoring hospital of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine's Hilo residency program, I would like to urge you to amend this bill to direct the appropriations to support accreditation and expansion efforts for the residency program in Hilo. Specifically, a budgetary line item commitment for the Hilo residency program is suggested. The Hilo residency program is the first to expand to the outer islands. An appropriation for the Hilo program is a commitment to provide access to healthcare on the Big Island and provides hope for future programs to be established on the neighbor islands.

Also, significant funding from TriWest for the Hilo program is dependent on a financial commitment by the state. In order for TriWest's funds to be released last year, then Lt. Governor James "Duke" Aiona, Jr. presented \$140,000 to the Hilo program in July 2010 to cover the FY 2010 and 2011 biennium. An appropriation for this year's biennium for our Hilo program would avoid any repeat of jeopardizing TriWest funding once again.

Since April 1, 2009 when the Hawaii Island Family Health Center was established to house the Hilo residency program, much progress has been made to prepare the program for accreditation. The clinic has flourished and continues to fill the need for primary healthcare for many families. Hilo Medical Center is fully committed and looks forward to the day this program reaches fruition. I urge you to support this bill by fulfilling our request to specify appropriations for the Hilo residency program. Thank you.



HILO MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

PRESIDENT
Dawn Pung

VICE PRESIDENT
Julie Tulang

SECRETARY
Amy Hamane

**TREASURER &
FINANCE CHAIR**
Valerie Peralto

PAST PRESIDENT
Monika Mallick

TRUSTEES
Puna Belcher
Carolyn Blankfield
Beverly Dodo
Lynda Dolan, M.D.
Chuck Erskine

Kathy Hirayama
Ted Hong
June Ikeda
Charmaine Kaipo
Brad Kinoshita

June Kunimoto
Phoebe Lambeth
Garry Maeda
Monika Mallick
Steve Morrison, M.D.
Hoon Park, M.D.

Alan Parker
Jon Patterson
Richard Robbins, M.D.
Marie Ruhland
Michael Seu, M.D.
Marcella Stroh

Christine Takahashi
Rep. Clifton Tsuji
Timothy Young

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
Lori Rogers

House of Representatives
Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

February 4, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329
Hawaii State Capitol

HB 958 RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CORPS.

This bill establishes the Hawaii health corps program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in any county having a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to in rural areas. Provides for loan repayments by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Makes appropriations to support accreditation efforts and support and expand residency programs, particularly in family medicine.

Dawn Pung, President
Lori Rogers, Executive Director
Hilo Medical Center Foundation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 958. The East Hawaii region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation fully supports the intent of this bill, which will enable the Big Island and other rural communities throughout the state of Hawaii an improved access to quality health care.

The Hilo Medical Center Foundation, would like to urge you to amend this bill to direct the appropriations to support accreditation and expansion efforts for the residency program in Hilo. Specifically, a budgetary line item commitment for the Hilo residency program is suggested. The Hilo residency program is the first to expand to the outer islands. An appropriation for the Hilo program is a commitment to provide access to healthcare on the Big Island and provides hope for future programs to be established on the neighbor islands.

Also, significant funding from TriWest for the Hilo program is dependent on a financial commitment by the state. In order for TriWest's funds to be released last year, then Lt. Governor James "Duke" Aiona, Jr. presented \$140,000 to the Hilo program in July 2010 to cover the FY 2010 and 2011 biennium. An appropriation for this year's biennium for our Hilo program would avoid any repeat of jeopardizing TriWest funding once again.

Since April 1, 2009 when the Hawaii Island Family Health Center was established to house the Hilo residency program, much progress has been made to prepare the program for accreditation. The clinic has flourished and continues to fill the need for primary healthcare for many families. Hilo Medical Center is fully committed and looks forward to the day this program reaches fruition. I urge you to support this bill by fulfilling our request to specify appropriations for the Hilo residency program. Thank you.

Date: February 4, 2011, 9:00 AM, Room 329

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Sharon Vitousek MD,

Re: HB958: Relating to Hawaii Health Service Corps

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

We support HB 958 for the following reasons:

- HB958 addresses the growing healthcare provider shortage in the rural areas of Hawaii, will reduce the impact of inadequate access to healthcare on the neighbor islands, and will eventually reduce the long term cost of inadequate access to healthcare paid by the taxpayers of the state.
- HB958 supports improved access to healthcare, by supporting a proven effective physician recruitment and retention strategy- student loan repayment- used successfully by the National Health Service Corps and by many other states.
- HB958 also addresses the growing healthcare shortage and inadequate access by effectively supporting development of the healthcare pipeline for rural underserved areas of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Sharon H. Vitousek MD, Kamuela

Andrew Levin, Volcano

Robert Surber, Hilo

Members of Hawaii Island Healthcare Alliance



Hawai'i State Center for Nursing

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
February 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

by

Gail P. Tiwanak RN, MBA
Director

Hawaii State Center for Nursing

HB 958 HD1 RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CORPS

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, HB 958, which establishes the Hawaii Health Corps program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in any county having a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to in rural areas.

We support the provision for loan repayments by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and for appropriations to support accreditation efforts and support and expand residency programs, particularly in family medicine.

However, Hawaii State Center for Nursing recommends that the UH John A. Burns school of medicine seek the recommendations of the UH Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene throughout the process of establishing the Hawaii health corps program. We recommend that Section 2 of the bill be amended as follows:

“§ -2 Hawaii health corps program established. The Hawaii health corps program is established to encourage physicians, physicians assistants, and nurse practitioners to serve in counties having a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to a rural area county. The Hawaii health corps program shall be administered by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine. In administering the program, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine shall:

- (1) Adopt rules and develop guidelines to administer the program;
- (2) Identify and designate areas of the counties where there is a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners;

(3) Establish criteria for the selection by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to participate in the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program;

(4) Define and determine compliance with the service commitments of the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program;

(5) Collect and manage reimbursements from participants who do not meet their service commitments under the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program;

(6) Publicize the program, particularly to maximize participation by individuals who live in areas of a county where there is a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners;

(7) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public and private sources for the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program, including maximizing the use of federal matching funds; ~~and~~

(8) Establish criteria and procedures for calling Hawaii health corps program participants into service during a civil defense or other emergency~~[-]; and~~

(9) Seek the recommendations of the University of Hawaii Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene throughout the process of establishing the Hawaii health corps program.

We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

\



February 3, 2011

TO: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health
FROM: Jackie Berry, Executive Director
RE: HB 958
Hearing: Friday, February 4, 2011 at 9:00am

Honorable Chairperson Yamane, Vice Chairperson Morikawa and Members of the Committee on Health

HMHB is a statewide coalition of public and private agencies and individuals committed to the improvement of maternal and infant health status in Hawaii through education, coordination and advocacy. **HMHB is testifying today in support of HB 958 Relating to Hawaii Health Corps.**

As we all know physician shortages on the neighbor islands and in the rural areas of Oah'u is a serious problem. Whenever we talk with women about their health care, access to quality health care is raised as one of the major problems facing them. HMHB believes that the establishment of a Hawaii health corps program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible physicians, physician assistant, and nurse practitioners in any county having a shortage of these professionals, with a priority given to those practicing in rural areas is an important step toward attracting practitioners in areas of need.

We urge your support of this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and our testimony.

845 22nd Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone # (808) 737-5805

E-mail: jackieb@hmhb-hawaii.org website: www.hmhb-hawaii.org

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Amy Hamane [ahamane@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HB 958

February 3, 2011

House of Representatives
Committee on Health
Re. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

I am in support of HB 958 relating to Hawaii Health Corps but request that the bill be amended to specifically provide a commitment to the Residency program in Hilo. We have a fledging Family Medicine Residency program which needs your support so that the program can complete its accreditation process and begin training family practice residents who will help meet the physician shortage we have in the State of Hawaii. We need a budgetary line item commitment by the State for the Residency program in Hilo. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Amy F. Hamane
151 Alae Street
Hilo, HI 96720

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Valerie Peralto [vperalto@hilo808.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 2:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HB 958 testimony

House of Representatives

Committee on Health

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

February 4, 2011

2:30pm

Conference Room 329

Hawaii State Capitol

HB 958 RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CORPS.

This bill establishes the Hawaii health corps program to provide loan repayments on behalf of eligible physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners in any county having a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to in rural areas. Provides for loan repayments by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Makes appropriations to support accreditation efforts and support and expand residency programs, particularly in family medicine.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 958. The East Hawaii region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation fully supports the intent of this bill, which will enable the Big Island and other rural communities throughout the state of Hawaii an improved access to quality health care.

I would like to urge you to amend this bill to direct the appropriations to support accreditation and expansion efforts for the residency program in Hilo. Specifically, a budgetary line item commitment for the Hilo residency program is suggested. The Hilo residency program is the first to expand to the outer islands. An appropriation for the Hilo program is a commitment to provide access to healthcare on the Big Island and provides hope for future programs to be established on the neighbor islands.

Bringing new physicians to the outer islands is so critical to the long-term health of our island population. Providing excellent primary care to our citizens is possible for Hawaii Island if this program can continue. Other organizations such as TriWest have come forth with funds to help make this happen. Now is the time for the Legislature to also commit to this program in a manner that will provide stability to this program. The Hilo community has given generously to help this program get started but for it to continue we need specific funding to come from the State of Hawaii.

I strongly urge you to support this bill by fulfilling our request to specify appropriations for the Hilo residency program.

Sincerely,

Valerie M. Peralto

Certified Public Accountant