

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Friday, February 25, 2011
9:00 a.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 240, S.D.1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE
ASSESSMENT.**

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

My name is Constance Cabral and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). The purpose of this bill is to permanently establish the physician workforce assessment fee. This measure requires that a portion of the assessment fees be deposited into the John A. Burns School of Medicine ("JABSOM") special fund to support physician workforce assessment and planning, including the recruitment and retention of physicians for rural and medically underserved areas of the State. It also requires the University of Hawaii at Manoa to report annually to the Legislature, the State Health Planning and Development Agency, and the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board").

The Board opposes this bill as it believes that the workforce assessment fee should be repealed on June 30, 2012. It does not see any value in continuing the physician survey with each license renewal. The Board is concerned with getting mired in cycles of analyses and feels that there is a compelling need to

proceed to the next phase, and that is planning for and providing a market based workforce for our State.

To this end, the Board suggests that in the coming year, JABSOM work in collaboration with the Hawaii Residency Program ("HRP") and the Board to explore ways of restructuring the residency program to meet our community's health needs. The Board acknowledges JABSOM's report and finds that the interim will allow the report to be fine-tuned with the purpose of including a proposal that would be submitted to the Legislature in 2012 for consideration.

The Board recognizes that recruiting and retaining physicians is one piece of the puzzle. As a regulatory body, the Board's focus with regard to the physician shortage is on licensure, education and the competent practice of medicine.

Therefore, should the Legislature continue the fee, the Board respectfully asks that in addition to the recruiting and retention of physicians, consideration be given to license portability, telemedicine, continuing medical education ("CME") and a newsletter.

Portability of licensure would make it easier for physicians who are licensed in another state to become licensed here, making it a potential draw for those looking to relocate their practice.

Once licensed, the delivery and quality of health services become critical. Telemedicine would allow physicians to expand their services beyond the limits of their geographical location. An OB/GYN in Honolulu could potentially treat and care for patients in Hana. CME would insure that the quality of care performed by the OB/GYN is maintained with a newsletter supplementing educational information physicians receive through CME.

Finally, should the Legislature continue the survey, the Board suggests that a market analysis be done by an agency familiar with the process and a report of the findings be submitted to the Legislature next year.

A market analysis would yield important information that identifies and analyzes the need for physicians (including specialists) in a particular geographical area. It would also take into consideration other factors such as the size of the market (current and future), market growth rate and market trends. Most importantly, it would identify key success factors in recruiting and retaining physicians in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. No. 240, S.D.1.



Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senator David Ige, Chair

February 4th, 2011

Honorable Senator Ige and Committee Members;

We would like to go on record as strong supporters of SB 240, and the sustaining of the Physician Workforce study in Hawaii;

This study provides exceptionally strong data to assist in any effort to recruit physician and other providers for Hawaii, and to lend support to any effort in trying to address the critical physician/provider shortages in our state. Without the data that has been gathered by Kelly Withy and her colleagues at JABSOM, it would be very difficult both clarify the problem and to target initiatives accurately. As the provider workforce changes through ageing and forces of attrition, this important work needs to continue

Please help set aside the sustaining funds needed to carry on this study.

Thank you for allowing us to present this supportive testimony for SB 240.

Sincerely,
Dan Domizio PA,MPH
Clinical Programs Director and CEO
Puna Community Medical Center