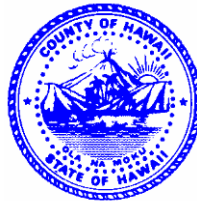


DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
Council Member  
District 4



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## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

Mailing Address: 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 23, 2012

TESTIMONY OF DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER  
ON

HB 2368, HD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT HILO  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
March 28, 2012, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 2368, HD 1. This bill appropriates funds to establish a medical residency program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Hawai'i County has a shortage of more than 150 physicians. This is the number needed to provide adequate levels of access. This shortage is expected to more than double in the next five years as many doctors reach retirement age, according to the latest projections of the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine Workforce Study.

The Hilo Medical Residency Program is the best way to alleviate the critical shortage of physicians in the rural areas throughout the state. Doctors trained in a rural environment are much more likely to practice in such an environment. Therefore, residents trained in Hilo will likely practice in Hawai'i County or the other neighbor islands.

The current program anticipates receiving accreditation in 2013, and having the first cohort of doctors beginning their residency in 2014. HB 2368, HD1, will enable the Residency Program to continue, and move towards the next step in achieving the much needed health services for Hawai'i Island and all other rural areas throughout the state.

I respectfully ask for your support for HB 2368, HD1 and thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.



# HILO MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

House Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Higher Education  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair

Hearing  
February 14, 2012

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 2368, relating to appropriation of funds for the Medical Residency Program at University of Hawaii, Hilo, for fiscal year 2012-2013 under program ID UOH 210.**

My name is Christine Takahashi and I represent the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees (Foundation). The mission of the Foundation is "to support the Hilo Medical Center with projects that benefit the greater community". I strongly support HB 2368 that authorizes appropriation of funds for the (Hilo) Medical Residency Program at University of Hawaii, Hilo, for fiscal year 2012-2013.

State funding of the Hilo Medical Residency Program is critically needed now to ensure the program is sustained through its accreditation process, which will take almost two years.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2368.

Chris Takahashi  
Hilo Medical Center Foundation Trustee  
HCR Box 6442  
Keaau, HI 96749

# GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

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**TO:** Senator David Ige  
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
*Via Email: WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov\_and Hand Delivery*

**FROM:** Gary M. Slovin

**DATE:** March 25, 2012

**RE:** H.B. 2368, HD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo  
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

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Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Gary Slovin, submitting comments on behalf of TriWest Healthcare Alliance Inc. (“TriWest”), a Delaware corporation headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona. TriWest **supports** H.B. 2368, HD1, which appropriates funds to establish a medical residency program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

TriWest has been actively participating in the development of the residency program and has donated substantial sums to the program. TriWest recognizes that it is important that additional healthcare services be provided to residents in rural areas. H.B. 2368, HD1 will provide needed additional resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ahamane@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:ahamane@hawaiiintel.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2368 on 3/28/2012 9:30:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 26, 2012 1:16:16 PM

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Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:30:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Amy Hamane  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ahamane@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:ahamane@hawaiiintel.net)  
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

Please approve funding for the Hilo Medical Residency Program so that it can achieve accreditation and begin accepting and training Resident physicians. Rural areas of all our islands face a shortage of physicians. Residency programs can help to relieve this shortage. The Hilo Medical Residency Program has achieved the necessary patient base needed and is in the process of obtaining accreditation. Without support from the State, this program is in jeopardy. Thank you.