

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
and the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
February 14, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.  
by  
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, University of Hawai`i at Hilo

HB 2368 Relating to the University of Hawai`i at Hilo

Chairs Yamane and Nishimoto, Vice Chairs Morikawa and Nakashima and  
Members of the Committees:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai`i at Hilo. I am testifying as a member of the Hawai`i Island community and I support the intent of HB 2368 to fund a program that is much needed on our island. However, I believe the funds appropriated for this bill should be directed to the Hilo Medical Center Rural Medical Residency Program.

The Rural Medical Residency Program at Hilo has an established and operating program to alleviate the severe physician shortage on Hawai`i Island. Funding will greatly increase and improve the quality of health care for people on the Island of Hawai`i. This program is a solution to attract, train and retrain doctors to be comfortable living in a rural setting, be more cognizant as well as understand the challenges that our island faces in terms of accessing and delivering quality health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2368. Aloha.



## **HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

**TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair

**DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012**

**TIME: 11:00 a.m.**

**PLACE: CR 329**

**FROM: Hawaii Medical Association**

Dr. Roger Kimura, MD, President

Dr. 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 2368 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO**

**In Support**

**Chairs & Committee Members:**

The Hawaii Medical Association strongly endorses the establishment and financial support of the Hilo Family Medicine residency program.

Inadequate access to health care on the neighbor islands has become a vitally important issue. Too many people die, or suffer poor outcomes, because there are inadequate numbers of practicing physicians. According to the Kaiser Foundation, the life span of a Big Island resident is currently 1.6 years shorter than those in other parts of the state. Because hospitals are so financially stressed that they do not have the ability to establish or partner to provide services and achieve the programs necessary for the recruitment and retention of physicians.

The introduction of HB2368 is important to all neighboring islands in that it establishes support in the recruitment and retention of health care providers. Financial assistance to the organizing Family Medicine residency program in Hilo will augment an island-wide community fundraising effort, and with corporate donations, bring young, energetic physicians to train in the rural setting of the Big Island. Studies show that physicians tend to begin their practice within 50 miles of their training site. This, combined with exposure to a rural medicine setting, will help to build a foundation on which a growing medical community may be built.

### **OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT - ROGER KIMURA, MD, PRESIDENT ELECT - STEVE KEMBLE, MD**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – MORRIS MITSUNAGA, MD, SECRETARY - THOMAS KOSASA, MD, TREASURER – WALTON SHIM, MD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CHRISTOPHER FLANDERS, DO**

The Hawaii Medical Association strongly supports HB2368 as being important to the rural areas of the state, and beneficial to the state as a whole.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this matter.



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

*"Touching Lives Everyday"*

**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**

February 14, 2012  
Conference Room 329  
11:00 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 2368, Relating Medical Residency Program;  
University of Hawaii at Hilo; Appropriation  
Appropriates funds for a medical residency program at UH-Hilo.**

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) supports the intent of HB 2368 that appropriates funds for a medical residency program at UH-Hilo.

Recruitment and the retention of essential health care providers, particularly in Hawaii's rural and underserved areas, is an on-going challenge that HHSC faces everyday in operating the State's community-hospital system. We recognize the need for creative and collaborative initiatives to alleviate the serious provider shortage, especially primary care physicians, in virtually all rural areas in Hawaii.

A residency program in Hilo has the potential to expand the training of primary care physicians and, potentially, enhance recruitment and retention of those physicians. Providing an appropriate practice environment, such as exists at the Hilo Medical Center and at other HHSC facilities on the Big Island should facilitate the recruitment and retention of physicians on the Big Island and in other rural areas in Hawaii.

An interdisciplinary residency program is not a panacea to our recruitment problem, but it is a good step forward in alleviating our physician and nursing shortages. The

program will require close collaboration between HHSC, JABSOM and UH Hilo. In that respect, be assured that HHSC will do whatever we can to assure that the program works to serve our Neighbor Island communities.

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

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

**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**

February 14, 2012  
Conference Room  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 329

**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.**

Howard Ainsley  
East Hawaii Regional CEO  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) and its Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of HB 2368 that authorizes appropriation of funds for the Medical Residency Program at University of Hawaii, Hilo, for fiscal year 2012-2013.

With the on-going support of the Legislature, the East Hawaii Region of HHSC continues to serve the healthcare needs of Hawaii County's growing population as a State Safety Net facility. The Region encompasses Hilo Medical Center (HMC), its long-term care facility and outpatient specialty clinics, Critical Access Hospitals in Ka'u and Honoka'a, as well as the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home. As the largest hospital on the island, HMC serves the needs of its patients, regardless of their financial status or ability to pay. A network of primary care physicians that is adequate to meet the needs of the East Hawaii population is critical to the provision of services at the Region's facilities.

Hawaii County has a shortage of more than 150 physicians needed to provide adequate levels of access. Moreover, the current physician shortage is expected to more than double in the next 5 years as many doctors retire, according to the latest projections by the authors of the 2011 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine Workforce Study. Statewide, the projected loss of doctors equates to 41 percent of Hawaii's physicians as they reach retirement age of 65 within the next 10 years. This means Hawaii faces a potential loss of 134 physicians per year as they retire, according to the Workforce Study.

The current and projected shortage of physicians simply means less access to care for Hawaii County residents that already suffer from a disproportionate rate of disease and disability than others in the state. According to the North Hawaii Outcomes Project (2011) these health disparities include:

- Higher Death rates, from
  - Heart disease
  - Stroke
  - Diabetes
  - Overall cancer

- Infant mortality
- Suicide
- Traffic-related accidents
- Lower life expectancy
- Higher teen birth rates
- Higher confirmed child abuse rates

State funding of the Hilo Medical Residency Program is critically needed now to ensure the program is sustained through its accreditation process. The Program will require \$400,000 per year in order to sustain ongoing operations. Medical residency programs require significant resources, which are not adequately recouped through the provision of health services extended to patients by medical residents. In today's environment of rising healthcare costs and decreased reimbursement, the resulting financial shortfall is more dramatic, particularly when services are rendered to the underinsured.

The Hilo Medical Residency Program is Hawaii Island's best way to alleviate the critical shortage of physicians, as our research tells us that medical residents who train in rural environments overwhelmingly stay and practice in the region.

The Hilo Medical Residency Program intends to incorporate a Patient Centered Medical Home model in the training of physicians. This new approach will train doctors to practice in a manner in which a patient's care is highly coordinated to achieve the best outcomes and to better manage healthcare costs. East Hawaii's early adoption of an electronic medical record system (in place at only 30 percent of hospitals in the nation) is a cornerstone of this training model. In addition, the hospital's participation in the Beacon Community will result in establishing Hilo's program as a highly desirable technology-based rural training option for doctors.

Our goal is to have the Residency Program fully accredited by 2013, and to have the first cohort of four doctors begin the residency in 2014, followed by successive classes of four doctors in each of the program's three years. To achieve this, ongoing State support is needed to operate this program that will dramatically curtail the island's severe shortage of primary care physicians.

As noted above, doctors trained in a rural environment are much more likely to practice in such an environment. We expect the residents trained in Hilo will practice throughout the Neighbor Islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before these Committees. We would respectfully urge the Committees' support of this measure.

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

**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**

February 14, 2012  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 329

**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.**

**Robert Irvine, MD, Chair**  
**East Hawaii Region Board of Directors**  
**Hawaii Health Systems Corporation**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), I am pleased to have the opportunity to present testimony urging your strong support of HB 2368 that authorizes appropriation of funds for the Medical Residency Program at University of Hawaii, Hilo, for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Since the inception of the HHSC East Hawaii Regional Board, one of our top priorities has been to develop the interdisciplinary Hilo Medical Residency Program. It is Hawaii Island's best way to alleviate the critical shortage of physicians, which is acute now and projected to grow exponentially as doctors of my generation reach retirement age. The fact that we represent 40 percent of the physicians that the state will need to replace is a daunting proposition. This situation is made ever more dire as Hawaii County is the fastest growing area of the state.

As the Board Chair, and as an orthopedic surgeon who invested more than 30 years of my life caring for East Hawaii's citizens and building the island's health system, I know first hand how vital this program is to the provision of health services in the years to come.

Importantly, the Residency Program is a best-practice model, designed to train physicians and clinical professionals in the newest system of care delivery. East Hawaii's early adoption of an electronic medical system, and the technological advancements afforded by the island's selection as a Beacon Community, present Hilo with a tremendous opportunity to develop a world-class training program.

Moreover, however, this advanced model program will serve to train four family practice physicians each year, along with nurses, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists and other clinical professionals who will provide not only preventive and acute care, but health promotion and education, as well as outreach services to the diverse population in Hawaii County. This will result in a healthier population and lower health expenditures. Given that the Big Island suffers from higher rates of smoking, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes – all of which have enormous health consequences and costs to the healthcare system – funding this critical program now and in the future is an investment in the vitality of our population and in the health of our workforce.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served to improve the health of East Hawaii's population for so many years. I respectfully ask the Committees' support of this measure.



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

**House Committee on Higher Education**  
**Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair**  
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February 14, 2012  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 329

**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.**

**Carol Iadeluca-Myrianthis, RPT, PsyD**  
**East Hawaii Region Board of Directors**  
**Hawaii Health Systems Corporation**

As a business owner and a member of the Board of Directors of the East Hawaii Region of HHSC, I am expressing my desire for the Committees to fully support of HB 2368.

Kinisis Hawaii Inc. has provided physical therapy services to patients in Pahoehoe, Ka'u and Hilo for more than 30 years. My firm treats patients regardless of their ability to pay and is proud to be part of the healthcare fabric of these East Hawaii communities.

Today, the current shortage of physicians in East Hawaii is threatening our network of health services and jeopardizing the wellbeing of our residents. I am acutely aware of the wave of practicing physicians that are reaching retirement age, and troubled by what this situation means for our Island. We must fully fund, and thus, ensure the viability of the Medical Residency Program in Hilo.

Many of the patients Kinisis' works with each day are suffering from debilitating conditions stemming from poor health habits and/or conditions that have worsened because they were not identified and treated sooner. Access to family physicians is one of our best means to identify these unhealthy behaviors, such as obesity and smoking, and to help individuals to change their life patterns. The health of Hawaii County is plagued by the highest rates of smoking, obesity, binge drinking, and motor vehicle accidents in the state. Puna, for example, is the fastest growing area of the state and has the Hawaii's highest use of tobacco, which is nearly 20 percent, according to the American Lung Association. In human terms, and to lower the cost to our healthcare system, we simply must turn these health trends around.

The current state of health in East Hawaii, and the fact that more than 40 percent of the state's doctors are projected to retire in the next 10 years equates to a current crisis. Moreover, in this same time period, the state is facing a wave of residents that are due to retire within the next 10 to 20 years. The fact that the elderly are more intensive users of health resources, coupled with a shortage of providers, creates a "perfect-storm" situation regarding the health of Hawaii's population.

For these reasons, among many, I ask for your support of HB 2368.

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

**House Committee on Higher Education**  
**Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair**  
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February 14, 2012  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 329

**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.**

**Christine Beck MSN/MA, APRN**  
**East Hawaii Region Board of Directors**  
**Hawaii Health Systems Corporation**

As a member of the Board of Directors of the East Hawaii Region of HHSC, I am appreciative of the opportunity to urge the Committees' support of HB 2368. As a nurse, nurse educator, advanced practice nurse, and community member I urge your support for funding of the Big Island Rural Interdisciplinary Residency Program.

I would like to speak to you about how the Residency Program stands as a best-practice model of patient –centered clinical practice and training.

Firstly, the Residency Program currently offers a model multidisciplinary clinic staffed with physicians, nurses, advanced practice nurses and pharmacists who provide primary care, disease prevention, health promotion, and outreach services to patients from diverse backgrounds. The patient-centered model transforms care by placing the patient and family at the center of practice. Teams of health professionals work together with patients, families, and communities to ensure comprehensive, coordinated, safe, and quality health services. The Institutes of Medicine and emerging Accountable Care Organizations endorse this model as a means to ensure cost-effective health services, identify practices that bridge the chasm of unequal access to quality care, and explore how new systems approaches can implement change.

Secondly, the Residency Program clinic also currently serves as an interdisciplinary training ground for baccalaureate nursing, family nurse practitioner, and doctor of pharmacy students from both UH Hilo and UH Manoa. In fact, the first nurse practitioner student to complete her family nurse practitioner training at the Residency Program clinic has now earned her Master's Degree from UH Manoa. She is now employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the UH Hilo Student Health Service Clinic.

The new Doctor of Nursing programs at both UH Manoa and UH Hilo will be placing students in the Residency Program clinic to work with the community to design innovative health care education and research programs to improve rural health outcomes. The addition of the medical residents, physical therapists, and occupational therapists will round out the Residency Program's ability to fully function as a model clinic and training facility offering:

- 1) Superb access to care

- 2) Patient engagement in their care
- 3) Clinical information systems that support high quality evidence-base care
- 4) Culturally competent care coordination and integrated comprehensive care
- 5) Practice-based learning in collaborative teams

The Big Island Rural Interdisciplinary Residency Program helps the State of Hawaii to grow our own health professionals to work in communities throughout our state, thereby strengthening community capacity and workforce development. I strongly urge your support of this Bill. The people of the State of Hawaii can only benefit from the support of this innovative model program.

Gary Yoshiyama  
Board of Directors  
HHSC East Hawaii Region  
c/o 1247 Launa Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

February 12, 2012

**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**

**RE: Testimony Supporting House Bill 2368**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2368, a bill for our State's financial support of our Hilo Medical Residency Program.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the East Hawaii Region of HHSC and whole heartedly support our interdisciplinary residency program. It is gratifying to know that this program is supported by our island community. It is acknowledged we face tremendous short and long term shortage of healthcare professionals. Traditional recruitment is not enough to close the gap between our healthcare needs and professionals to fulfill that need. We recognize the delivery of care is changing and is significantly improved in our residency clinic by utilizing a team approach in providing services. Our interdisciplinary residency program is an investment in "growing our own" healthcare professionals and will significantly improve on how healthcare is delivered. The outcome is members of community receive quality care when we need it.

From the start of this Program, Hilo's goal has been to develop a first-class interdisciplinary rural training program. Proudly we have put the pieces in place to achieve this. Today, the Hilo Residency Training Program is:

- An excellent example of Hawaii's ability to work together for our common good. Hilo Medical Center, the John A. Burnes School of Medicine, and the University of Hawaii Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing are effective partners.
- Training medical residents, pharmacists, advanced practiced nurses, and bachelor-degree nurses as they rotate through the program and gain real-world experience in patient care.
- An opportune training ground for Hawaii students to study within the state.

The fact that we are training an interdisciplinary team of caregivers within the framework of the residency program cannot be emphasized enough. This means Hawaii is providing:

- A top-quality training ground for our children to study without leaving their home state.

- Training of future healthcare professionals (nurses, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, and doctors) that will comprise the “team” care approach that is becoming ever more prevalent as the optimal way to deliver health services.

The Hilo Medical Residency Program is also vital to our island’s economy due to the economic multiplier effect of physicians. Each physician equates to five additional jobs in the community as he or she is supported by highly skilled nurses and other healthcare professionals. In addition, our hospitals are the third largest employers in the County, and certainly the largest in the rural communities of Pahala and Honoka’a. We must keep our hospitals strong so that services are delivered locally and healthcare dollars are spent at home.

Please support of this HB2368. Thank you for your support of the Hilo Medical Residency Program.

**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**

February 14, 2012  
Conference Room  
Hawaii State Capitol

**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.**

Harry Yada  
Member of the East Hawaii Regional Board  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

As a member of the East Hawaii Regional Board for Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and as an individual residing in the East Hawaii Region, I would like to present testimony in strong support of HB 2368 that authorizes appropriation of funds for the Medical Residency Program at University of Hawaii, Hilo, for fiscal year 2012-2013.

With the on-going support of the Legislature, the East Hawaii Region of HHSC continues to serve the healthcare needs of Hawaii County's growing population as a State Safety Net facility. The Region encompasses Hilo Medical Center (HMC), its long-term care facility and outpatient specialty clinics, Critical Access Hospitals in Ka'u and Honoka'a, as well as the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home. As the largest hospital on the island, HMC serves the needs of its patients, regardless of their financial status or ability to pay. A network of primary care physicians that is adequate to meet the needs of the East Hawaii population is critical to the provision of services at the Region's facilities.

Hawaii County has a shortage of more than 150 physicians needed to provide adequate levels of access. Moreover, the current physician shortage is expected to more than double in the next 5 years as many doctors retire, according to the latest projections by the authors of the 2011 University of Hilo John A. School of Medicine Workforce Study. Statewide, the projected loss of doctors equates to 41 percent of Hawaii's physicians as they reach retirement age of 65 within the next 10 years. This means Hawaii faces a potential loss of 134 physicians per year as they retire, according to the Workforce Study.

The current and projected shortage of physicians simply means less access to care for Hawaii County residents that already suffer from a disproportionate rate of disease and disability than others in the state. According to the North Hawaii Outcomes Project (2011) these health disparities include:

- Higher Death rates, from
  - Heart disease
  - Stroke
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- Overall cancer
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- Higher teen birth rates
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State funding of the Hilo Medical Residency Program is critically needed now to ensure the program is sustained through its accreditation process. The Program will require \$400,000 per year in order to sustain ongoing operations. Medical residency programs require significant resources, which are not adequately recouped through the provision of health services extended to patients by medical residents. In today's environment of rising healthcare costs and decreased reimbursement, the resulting financial shortfall is more dramatic, particularly when services are rendered to the underinsured.

The Hilo Medical Residency Program is Hawaii Island's best way to alleviate the critical shortage of physicians, as our research tells us that medical residents who train in rural environments overwhelmingly stay and practice in the region.

The Hilo Medical Residency Program intends to incorporate a Patient Centered Medical Home model in the training of physicians. This new approach will train doctors to practice in a manner in which a patient's care is highly coordinated to achieve the best outcomes and to better manage healthcare costs. East Hawaii's early adoption of an electronic medical record system (in place at only 30 percent of hospitals in the nation) is a cornerstone of this training model. In addition, the hospital's participation in the Beacon Community will result in establishing Hilo's program as a highly desirable technology-based rural training option for doctors.

Our goal is to have the Residency Program fully accredited by 2013, and to have the first cohort of four doctors begin the residency in 2014, followed by successive classes of four doctors in each of the program's three years. To achieve this, ongoing State support is needed to operate this program that will dramatically curtail the island's severe shortage of primary care physicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before these Committees. We would respectfully urge the Committees' support of this measure.

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 7:50 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** alibaba@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2368 on 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HED 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alistair Bairos  
Organization: West Hawaii Regional Board, HHSC  
E-mail: [alibaba@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:alibaba@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

**Comments:**

I am writing in full support of HB2368 - this is an essential first step in resolving the provider deficit on the Big Island and on the Neighbor Islands in general. When passed it is the sort of seminal measure that all involved will look back on short years from now and say, yes, that was the beginning of fixing the problem. Truly an investment in our Islands' future.



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**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**

February 14, 2012  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 329

**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.**

**Kristine McCoy, MD, MPH**  
**Program Director**  
**Hawaii Island Rural Family Practice Residency Program**

As the newly hired Program Director for the Hawaii Island Rural Family Practice Residency Program, it is my pleasure to submit testimony that asks for your support of HB 2368 to fund this critical health resource for the Island and the State. The Residency Program is a practical and cost-effective means to build a stable interdisciplinary health workforce that is sufficient to serve the needs of Hawaii Island's population.

Currently, the Hilo Residency Program is preparing its application for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Preparation of the application entails ensuring myriad components of the curriculum, preceptors from the physician community, and all related aspects of training are in place. Once accredited, which we anticipate will occur during 2013, the program will enroll its first cohort of four doctors to begin their residency in 2014. This class will be followed by successive classes of four doctors in each of program's three years.

As a physician with a master's degree in public health, I see the importance of training physicians to practice in a rural setting as twofold:

- Physicians, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists and others who are trained in a rural setting, overwhelmingly practice in rural areas, thereby increasing access to care. In addition to providing care when patients are ill, greater access to primary care through family medicine physicians also equates to a community being better served with preventative services. Preventing the development of disease by working with patients to change lifestyle choices, and diagnosing disease and conditions early when health can more likely be restored, results in a dramatic cost savings to the healthcare system.
- The practice of family medicine in a rural setting requires doctors and other clinical professionals to be skilled in working with networks of providers that are often less robust than in urban settings. Hawaii Island's geography, diverse cultures, and other factors increase the need for family practice physicians who are trained to develop patients' care plans with available resources.

Given Hawaii Island's shortage of physicians, the importance of these two points cannot be overstated. Family physicians and their primary care colleagues need to be trained in the appropriate setting. Furthermore, family practice doctors are the referral source to other physician specialists. Thus, a base of family practice physicians is fundamental to attracting needed cardiologists, gastroenterologists, ophthalmologists, and other critical specialists to the Island.

Currently, Hawaii Island is at a critical juncture in its ability to keep our citizens healthy and our workforce strong. HB 2368 will enable the Residency Program to move forward to achieve needed health services for Hawaii Island and others in the State. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and to urge the Committees' Members to fully support this Bill.



# 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 Julie Tulang 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 appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in strong support of 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. The Program will require \$400,000 per year in order to sustain ongoing operations. We are hopeful that medical residents who participate in the Hilo Medical Residency Program will be enriched further through their residency experience, sense the "aloha" from our community and ultimately want to practice medicine in Hilo, or in a rural communities throughout Hawaii.

The Foundation and the Hawaii Island Community has supported the Hilo Medical Residency Program financially, and with countless volunteer hours. The critical issue of the lack of physicians and supporting medical personnel in rural area is a long standing issue since the decline of the sugar industry. The Hilo Medical Residency Program will be a benefit to the Hawaii Island and many other rural communities. Hilo Medical Center has taken on the challenge and responsibility to get this Hilo Medical Residency Program accredited, and the Foundation supports that effort.

We, the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board, support HB 2368, relating to the appropriation of funds for the (Hilo) Medical Residency Program and would recommend that those funds be directed to the Hilo Medical Center.

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

Julie Tulang  
Vice-President, Hilo Medical Center Foundation  
1190 Waianuenue Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Ph. 935-2957



# HILO MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

**PRESIDENT**

Dawn Pung

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Julie Tulang

**SECRETARY**

Marcella Stroh

**TREASURER**

Valerie Peralto

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Chuck Erskine

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Brad Kinoshita

Fred Koehnen

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Garry Maeda

Monika Mallick

Steve Morrison, M.D.

Hoon Park, M.D.

Jon Patterson

Dr. John Pezzuto

Dean – UH College of Pharmacy

Richard Robbins, M.D.

Marie Ruhland

Michael Seu, M.D.

Peter Tadaki

Christine Takahashi

Representative Clifton Tsuji

**EXECUTIVE****DIRECTOR**

Lori Rogers

**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.**

**Chair Yamane, Chair Nishimoto and Members of these Committees:**

Hilo Medical Center Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1995.

Our mission statement is *"to support the Hilo Medical Center with projects that benefit the greater community"*. All thirty members of the Board of Trustees sincerely appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2368 that authorizes appropriation of funds for the (Hilo) Medical Residency Program at the University of Hawaii at 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. The Program will require \$400,000 per year in order to sustain ongoing operations. We are hopeful that medical residents who participate in the Hilo Medical Residency Program will be enriched further through their residency experience, sense the "aloha" from our community and ultimately want to practice medicine in Hilo, or in rural communities throughout the Hawaii Island.



# HILO MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

**PRESIDENT**  
Dawn Pung

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Julie Tulang

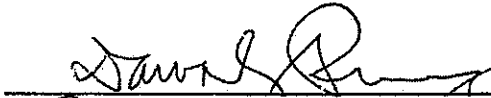
**SECRETARY**  
Marcella Stroh

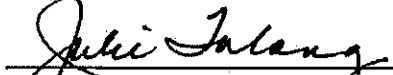
**TREASURER**  
Valerie Peralto


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Hoon Park, M.D.  
Jon Patterson  
Dr. John Pezzuto  
Dean – UH College of Pharmacy  
Richard Robbins, M.D.  
Marie Ruhland  
Michael Seu, M.D.  
Peter Tadaki  
Christine Takahashi  
Representative Clifton Tsuji


The Foundation and the Hawaii Island Community has supported the Hilo Medical Residency Program financially, and with countless volunteer hours. The critical issue of the lack of physicians and supporting medical personnel in these rural areas are long-standing issues since the decline of the sugar industry. The Hilo Medical Residency Program will not only be beneficial to the East side's growing population, but also for the many other rural communities throughout Hawaii Island. Hilo Medical Center has taken on the challenge and responsibility to get this Hilo Medical Residency Program accredited, and the Foundation supports that effort. All thirty trustees have in some form or another gotten some kind of feedback from their families, friends, and associates in regards to this very critical shortage of primary care physicians, consequently:

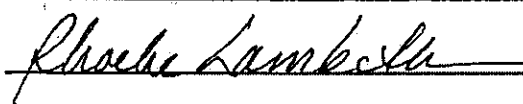
We, the Trustees of the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board unanimously support HB 2368, relating to the appropriation of funds for the (Hilo) Medical Residency Program. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2368.

  
Dawn Pung, President

  
Julie Tulang, Vice-President

  
Marcella Stroh, Secretary

  
Valerie Peralto, Treasurer

  
Phoebe Lambeth, Trustee



# HILO MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

**PRESIDENT**

Dawn Pung

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Julie Tulang

**SECRETARY**

Marcella Stroh

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Amy Hamane

Kathy Hirayama

Charmaine Ka-Ipo

Brad Kinoshita

Fred Koehnen

June Kunimoto

Phoebe Lambeth

Garry Maeda

Monika Mallick

Steve Morrison, M.D.

Hoon Park, M.D.

Jon Patterson

Dr. John Pezzuto

Dean – UH College of Pharmacy

Richard Robbins, M.D.

Marie Ruhland

Michael Seu, M.D.

Peter Tadaki

Christine Takahashi

Representative Clifton Tsuji

**EXECUTIVE**

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Lori Rogers

*June Kunimoto*

*Trustee*

*Lori Rogers*

# TESTIMONY

Testimony to the House Committee on Health & Higher Education

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

11:00 A.M.

Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2368 RELATING TO REQUESTING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE MEDICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT HILO MEDICAL CENTER.**

Health Committee Chair: Representative Ryan I. Yamane  
Health Committee Vice Chair: Representative Dee Morikawa

Higher Education Chair: Scott Y. Nishimoto  
Higher Education Vice Chair: Mark M. Nakashima

My name is MARCELLA STROH; I am presently a Vice-President of Central Pacific Bank, Hilo Branch and I am currently the Executive Secretary of the Hilo Medical Center Foundation. I respectfully request that H.B. 2368 relating to requesting the appropriation of funds for the Medical Residency Program at Hilo Medical Center be approved due to the critical and urgent needs of medical Physicians and Specialists here in our Community of Hilo and also for the rural communities on the Big Island. Some critical reasons for this testimony:

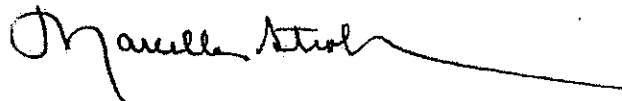
- Sustainability for the Accreditation Process (2 years process) of this program needed asap.
- \$400,000 per year is needed just for the operational existence and maintenance.
- A majority of the present medical physicians here will be retiring, which will put the Big Island in a urgent situation going forward. = 41% loss in the next 10 years.
- Shortage of more then 150 physicians has been identified on Hawaii Island alone.
- Workforce study/survey shows losing 134 physicians per year as they retire.
- Serves as an interdisciplinary training ground for nursing and pharmacy students both from UH Hilo and UH Manoa, thereby strengthening community capacity and work force development here.

These are just a few of the main issues that have made me become an advocate for this program, whereby I ask for your assistance and help with in these critical times of collaborating and working with our Legislators to solve this major medical shortage of physicians and specialists.

**I humbly ask that you consider and support this urgent need of approving H.B. 2368.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Warmest Aloha - Marcella Stroh







House Committee on Health  
R. Yamine, Chairman

February 12, 2012

House Committee on Higher Education  
Rep S. Nishimoto, Chairman

The Honorable Chairmen and committee members:

**In support of HB-2368:** sustaining a Family Medicine Residency Program based in Hilo, Hawaii.

The state of Hawai'i must find the resources to sustain a Family Medicine Residency program in Hilo. The state of Hawaii, especially rural Hawaii, must produce physicians to provide primary health care services to the entire population. O'ahu thinking cannot prevail in this regard. Selecting physician candidates who will choose to remain to serve our rural populations is imperative. Training them in Hilo will offer the most assurance that they will remain in rural Hawai'i to provide health services to the people who need those services most.

This need for primary care physicians is not unique to Hawaii. What is unique, is Hawaii's state government not finding the means to sustain a rural residency program. Look about the country, there are Family Medicine Residency programs in every state, based in rural venues; WHY NOT HAWAI'I?

It is time to set the proper priorities. Times are difficult, but money invested now will help to assure that services will be available in the future. Please help to sustain out residency program in Hilo.

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB-2368.

Dan Domizio PA,MPH

Clinical Programs Director  
Puna Community Medical Center  
Pahoa, Hawai'i

## **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

RE: Hawaii Island healthcare Alliance strongly supports House Bill 2368

When resources are scarce, spending needs to be based on expected return on investment. Many states support primary care residency programs with consistent funding because of the return on investment.

On behalf of the Hawaii Island Healthcare Alliance, I strongly urge you to support appropriation of funds for the UH Rural Family Practice Residency Program in Hilo because of the need and it is expected to yield a substantial return on investment. Investing in training family practice residents on Hawaii island is expected to yield a return on investment because:

- Residency programs reliably increase the number of practicing physicians in the location of the residency program. ( 80% of residents practice near where they train.)
- Increasing the number of family practice physicians will improve access to primary care and is expected to decrease the number and rate of "potentially avoidable hospitalizations." Hawaii county currently has twice the rate of hospitalization for diabetes as Honolulu County, despite having a similar rate of diabetes ( Source: HHIC). Hawaii county does have a substantially lower proportion of physicians than Honolulu county.
- Multiplier effect
- Improving access to quality primary care will reduce one of the key barriers to economic development in Hawaii County



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

117 Keawe Street, Suite 205  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2851  
Phone: (808) 935-7178  
Fax: (808) 961-4435  
E-mail: [admin@hicc.biz](mailto:admin@hicc.biz)  
[www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

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Vaughn Cook

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*Past President*  
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Glenn Santos

Kimberly Shimabuku

Alice Sledge

Donald Straney

Art Taniguchi

Barry Taniguchi

Ron Terry

Steve Ueda

Carol VanCamp

William Walter

Noreen Yamane

February 10, 2012

Submitted On-Line at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>

Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Health  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Chair  
House Committee on Higher Education  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

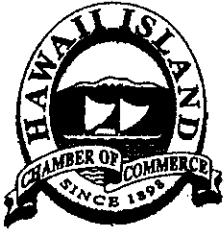
## RE: Testimony in Support of HB2368 Hilo Medical Residency Program

Dear Chair Yamane, Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Nakashima and Members of both Committees:

My name is Vaughn Cook and I am the President-Elect of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce. With more than 230 member businesses and over 500 member representatives, the Chamber serves as an important voice of business in Hawaii.

The Chamber **strongly supports** HB 2368 which will fund the Hilo Medical Residency Program for fiscal year 2012 -2013.

Access to medical care is a **critical need** for ALL RESIDENTS of the State of Hawaii. Often, residents of the neighbor islands suffer from lack of doctors willing to establish their practices in our communities for a variety of reasons. The Medical Residency Program seeks to reverse this trend and to encourage medical residents to consider the benefits of practicing medicine on the Island of Hawaii.



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

117 Keawe Street, Suite 205  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2851  
Phone: (808) 935-7178  
Fax: (808) 961-4435  
E-mail: [admin@hicc.biz](mailto:admin@hicc.biz)  
[www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

The Chamber has consistently supported a local Medical Residency Program. This program is aligned with our positions on Health Care which are as follows:

**Health Care:**

The Chamber supports Health Care initiatives that assist Hawaii Island Communities:

Recruit, retain, and train health care professionals and para-professionals

Improve health care infrastructure and health care systems

Provide access to quality health care for all community members.

Provide preventative and general health care education to health care consumers.

Supporting this program helps government fulfill one of its primary purposes – maintaining the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. Nothing is more important to maintaining health, safety and welfare than having access to doctors in your own community.

We urge you to support this HB 2368 that allows funding for this Medical Residency Program to continue on the Big Island for another fiscal year. These funds will be well spent as they will encourage more doctors to practice in our community. This will improve the Health of the ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony and ask for the support of both Committees to move this important legislation forward.

Very Truly Yours

Vaughn G. T. Cook  
President-Elect



75-5737 Kuakini Hwy. Suite 208  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 329-1758 Fax: 329-8564  
www.Kona-Kohala.com info@kona-kohala.com

Testimony to the House Committees on Health and Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 11 am  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

RE: HOUSE BILL 2368 - Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo

Dear Chairs Yamane and Nishimoto, Vice Chairs Morikawa and Nakashima and Members of the Committees:

My name is Vivian Landrum, and I am the President/CEO of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC). KKCC represents over 520 business members and is the leading business advocacy organization on the west side of Hawai'i Island. KKCC also actively works to enhance the environment, unique lifestyle and quality of life in West Hawai'i for both residents and visitors alike.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce strongly supports HB 2368 to appropriate funds for a medical residency program at UH-Hilo.

The shortage of physicians on Hawaii Island has been documented and discussed for the past ten years. As noted in the latest reports from the North Hawaii Outcomes Project as well as the Hawaii County Community Health Profile, the health of the people of Hawaii County is consistently worse than the state average. Factors attributing to this include genetics, social and economic conditions, health related behaviors and **access to healthcare**. Increasing the healthcare workforce was cited as one requirement to improve the health of Hawaii Island's people.

A medical residency program at UH – Hilo could help stem the current and projected shortage by increasing the chances for additional physicians on Hawaii Island as many residents choose to remain where they trained. This could have a positive domino effect as new physicians will require staff, thus supporting job growth as well.

The physician shortage also impacts hiring challenges for employers. Members of this Chamber have reported even though they have health care plans for their employees; new employees are struggling to find physicians who will take on new patients. Current practicing physicians are already overburdened and reluctant to bring on new clients. Qualified workforce candidates are therefore reluctant to upgrade to a new job if the change means a change in health care provider.

Hawaii Island is experiencing a gradual recovery from the past few years of economic turmoil, but at a slower pace than our sister islands. The appropriation of funding for a medical residency program at UH – Hilo is an action that is greatly needed for this Island now and for the future. I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vivian Landrum".

Vivian Landrum  
President/CEO

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 12:34 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** seasteve871@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2368 on 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** 2368 testimony.txt

Testimony for HLT/HED 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: steve godzsak  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [seasteve871@gmail.com](mailto:seasteve871@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

2368 testimony (3)

We are well aware of doctors being needed in the rural areas of Hawaii and that we must compete with the mainland to recruit. Also, most of our doctors (especially primary care) are at capacity and not accepting new patients. We ran into that very situation 6 years ago after arriving from the mainland. This situation hasn't improved. The establishment of a residency program here in Hilo was chosen to alleviate this problem and there is a path forward. However, it will require funding. The community has been supporting this effort and I'm sure will continue to do so. It's time for the state to truly recognize their role in supporting this endeavor. I hope you will recognize how beneficial this program is and will be to the future of rural Hawaii. I urge you to support SB2368. Thank you.

Selena Dye  
P.O. Box 254  
Kurtistown, HI 96760

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

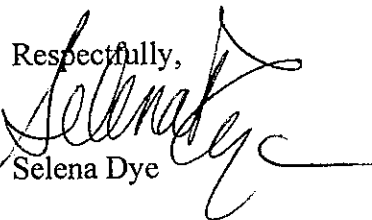
Re: Legislative House bill 2368

Dear Representatives,

House Bill 2368 seeks to establish a residency program at the University of Hawaii in Hilo. Such a program is vital to our community. We have a shortage of doctors and it is very difficult to find a physician who will take on new patients. We have one clinic here that always booked and one must wait hours otherwise. Several of my relatives have elected not to relocate back home to Hilo because they will be unable to get the medical care here that they need and are accustomed to. I am most saddened that my family will not return because we do not have doctors. Of all things!

My son is a student at UH Manoa. He hopes to apply to medical school in a couple years. Our vision was to see him return home to care for his community. My fear is that he will obtain his residency off island and choose not to return home after becoming accustomed and attached to his environment. Statistics show that most physicians will elect to stay in the area of their residency program. Oahu has an abundance of physicians, no doubt because all the residency programs are situated there

I have lived in Hilo most of my life and know that a majority of our doctors are near retirement. Who will replace them? Who will care for our kupuna and keiki? There are pregnant women that have not seen a physician because there are no physicians taking on new clients. This is a serious matter and a shameful situation for our State and Island. We cannot sit by and have our people sick and dying for lack of proper medical care. Please support this bill for our community's sake.

Respectfully,  
  
Selena Dye



10:00 a.m. February 13, 2012

I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB2368, which comes up for hearing on Tuesday, Feb 14, 2012.

I reside in Hilo and will not attend the hearing at the State Capitol in Honolulu.

I support this measure because it will be good for the UH Hilo and good for the Hawaii Island community.

It is difficult for people to find physicians who take new patients, or patients who pay cash or have welfare- or state run medical insurance, such as Aloha Care.

Having the medical residency program in Hilo, and affiliated with UH Hilo will be a bonus for the population and for the college. I am fortunate to have employment that provides good medical insurance coverage. During a period of unemployment I did pay out of pocket for health insurance and qualified for HMSA insurance as a private payer because I was in their 'system'. Many are not so fortunate and would benefit from having more physicians during their training and hopefully as some choose to stay on the island.

I am a UH Hilo graduate and have seen the campus grow, mature and enrich the quality of life in Hilo and the state. This would be a good thing for our community and expose physicians in training to a variety of cultures, ailments, social and health factors.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Stephanie Salazar  
78 East Kahaopea Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Tel: 808 959-3242

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Cynthia Boots [Cynthia.Boots@ipaper.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 9:25 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** re: HB 2368 UH-Hilo Medical Residency Program ...appropriating funds

Aloha!

My name is Cynthia S. Boots, and I am a resident of Hawaii since 1991, and a member of the Rotary Club of Hilo since 1997.

We have a severe shortage of doctors on this island.

Our Rotary Club established a fundraiser to raise funds for the Rural Residency Program here in Hilo back in 2010, and has contributed funds raised for the program in 2010 and 2011. Our club truly believes in this project for our island/community. Please vote that funds be appropriated to this program so it can continue to move forward. This is something that is necessary for the health of the entire state, as students trained in this program will most likely stay in the state of Hawaii and benefit the health of many friends and families.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S. Boots

Cindy Boots-Xpedx Sales/Big Island Hawaii

Hilo Office Phone: 808-935-6446

Hilo Office Fax: 808-935-7060

Cell Phone: 808-937-6338

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2012 9:26 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** aclevin@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2368 on 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HED 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: andy levin  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [aclevin@hawaii.edu](mailto:aclevin@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2012

**Comments:**

Hawaii faces a critical workforce shortage in healthcare. It is bad now, and is projected to get much worse, especially in rural areas of the State. The establishment of a rural residency program has been identified by the experts as one of the most effective ways to attract providers to live and practice in underserved areas. The entire Big Island healthcare community has therefore joined in the effort, but we need your help and support. Please help fund this critical program. Thank you.

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

---

**From:** Diane and Fred Holschuh [triplef80@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 12:17 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2368

To: Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair; Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, House Committee on Health; Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Chair; Rep. Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair, House Committee on Higher Education:

From: Fred C. Holschuh, M.D.  
Retired Emergency physician and County Councilmember

Date: February 14, 2012  
11:00 a.m., Conf. Room 329

Subject: HB2368 Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa; Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of HB 2368, which will allow appropriation of funds for a medical residency program at UH Hilo. I spent 30 years of my professional career as an emergency physician at Hilo Medical Center. I have seen first hand over many years, how residency training programs enhance medical care in communities. This includes my training in New York City, at Queen's Hospital in Honolulu, and contact with residents during my career in Hilo. The attending physicians who supervise residents and the residents who work in the training program create an ongoing learning experience which is ultimately translated to improved care for individual patients. Another extremely valuable benefit is that frequently, residents return to practice in areas where they trained. Given the physician shortages in Hawaii island communities, this potentially will benefit the patients we serve.

I respectfully request support of this bill.

Aloha,  
Fred C. Holschuh, M.D.

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** brian@tihcpa.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2368 on 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HED 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brian Iwata  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [brian@tihcpa.com](mailto:brian@tihcpa.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:  
Brian M. Iwata  
101 Aupuni St., #139  
Hilo, HI 96720

February 14, 2012

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

The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair The Honorable Representative Mark m. Nakashima, Vice Chair Committee on Higher Education

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for HB 2368  
Relating to University of Hawaii at Hilo

Chairs.Yamane and Nishimoto; Vice-chairs.Morikawa and Nakashima and committee members:

The Hilo Medical Residency Program is at a critical point to insure sustainability of the program and to be able to help address the critical shortage of primary care physicians in the state.

The program will require about \$400,000 annually to fund the shortfall of the ongoing operations. Passage of this bill will provide the funding though its accreditation process and get the long awaited program under way.

Respectfully submitted,



## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 7:24 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jimkenedy@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2368 on 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HED 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: james R. Kennedy  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jimkenedy@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jimkenedy@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:  
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Chair  
Committee on Higher Education  
Hawai`i State House of representatives

RE: In Strong Support for HB2368: Funding for the Hilo Medical Residency Program

Aloha Chair Nishimoto:

It is no secret that the shortage practicing physicians on Hawai`i Island has reached crisis levels, and it's growing worse.

This came home to myself and my family personally just a few years ago, when our family physician of many years had to give up family practice due to a serious latex allergy.

Even though a long-time resident of Hilo, we found it very difficult to find another physician to take over our family's care. We found that doctor after doctor was not accepting new patients, because they were already overbooked.

When we finally did find a doctor willing to accept us, very shortly thereafter he gave up practicing at the local hospital, due to the rising cost of liability insurance for in-patient care.

So, while we now have a physician for routine check ups, if any of us required hospitalization, it is off to the ER to stand in line and into the hands of strangers. This has happened to us twice in the last five years.

The Hilo Residency Program is much more than a short-term bandaid on this problem. While it does indeed make qualified medical far more accessible than it has been the last few years, especially for new comers and lower income families, it is a key element in a deliberate community plan to provide early-career physicians an opportunity to experience practicing medicine in this lovely place, with the expectation that a higher percentage of UH Medical School trainees will choose to come here to practice in the long term, after their residencies.

Many of us -- people and organizations -- have provided out-of-pocket funding to help support the Residency Program thus far, but we cannot do it alone.

Continued funding of this program is critical to the long-term health and safety of our families.

Please help us realize this solution to a problem that is edging on getting desperate.

Mahalo nui,

James R. Kennedy, PhD  
PO Box 1939  
Hilo, HI 96721

Vice Chair, Hawai`i Island Workforce Investment Board Past President, Hawai`i Island Chamber of Commerce Associate Director, Gemini Observatory - Now Retired



**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Bobby Stivers-Apiki [hoku67@live.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** H.B. 2368 TESTIMONY

**RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO H.B. NO. 2368**

**I AM IN SUPPORT OF H.B. NO. 2368 AND ENCOURAGED YOUR SUPPORT IN FUNDING THE MEDICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.**

**IN 2006 WHEN I MOVED TO HILO FROM HONOLULU, IT TOOK ME NEARLY FOUR (4) MONTHS TO OBTAIN A PHYSICIAN. THIS WAS DUE TO THE LACK OF PHYSICIANS IN EAST HAWAII AND AT THAT TIME PHYSICIANS WERE NOT ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS.**

**WE NEED MORE PHYSICIANS TO MEET THE HEALTH NEEDS OF A GROWING AND AGING COMMUNITY. THE MEDICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM IS A COST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO GET QUALIFIED, HOME GROWN PHYSICIANS THAT LIVE AND WORK IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

Robert Stivers-Apiki

From the Home of:  
Bobby Stivers-Apiki  
hoku67@live.com  
*Hilo - Island of Hawai'i*

*"Words to live by are just words. Unless you live by them. You have to walk the talk."*

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Alan Kusunoki [aakusunoki@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 9:51 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2368 - medical residency program at the UH Hilo

This is directed to all members of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Higher Education:

I support HB 2368 to establish a medical residency program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo under program ID UOH 210.

Alan A. Kusunoki  
Hilo resident

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Deven Engevoid [dengevoid@hhsc.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 8:37 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2368 Testimony

From: Thomas L.H. Yeh [<mailto:tly@lava.net>]  
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 7:52 AM  
Subject: HB 2368

Please forward this testimony in support of HB 2368 on to the Committees on Health and Higher Education for the February 14, 2012 hearing. I am currently President of the Rotary Club of South Hilo Foundation, a non-profit entity, which in conjunction with the Rotary Club of South Hilo, has conducted annual fundraising events, a primary purpose of which has been to help fund the fledgling Hilo Medical Center residency program. As you are aware, we have donated substantial funds towards the program through the Hilo Medical Center Foundation, because of our strong belief in the importance of training medical graduates in a residency program in Hilo. With this opportunity, they can train in a rural setting, help provide medical services to an expandingly needy community which has a shortage of medical care, network among local physicians and health care agencies, and experience the rich cultural and natural environment which the Big Island has to offer.

When students apply to college or medical school, they often have aspirations of serving patients in need, or coming back home to serve residents here. I know of individuals who grew up here and have come back to Hilo to practice, but who had to do their residency elsewhere.

We are fortunate to have them. But when many graduates are called to serve as residents elsewhere, these aspirations can change as a result of economic or situational factors over a several year period. By providing a successful residency program here, we can help to improve the environment for encouraging physicians to practice on the Big Island.

The Big Island needs more physicians who can serve our expanding population. We are lacking in physicians in a number of specialties as well as in the family practice area. A number of our physicians are no longer taking more patients, or cutting back on their practice as they near retirement.

Under HB 2368, administration of the residency program through UH-Hilo will help to assure the success of the program. UH-Hilo has demonstrated its ability to foster and operate several programs in the medical field, including its nursing and pharmacy program.

Thank for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Thomas Yeh  
c/o 85 W. Lanikaula St.  
Hilo, HI

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## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Deven Engevold [dengevold@hhsc.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 2368 Testimony

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**From:** Pauline Lutkenhouse [<mailto:honolii@ilhawaii.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 1:51 PM  
**Subject:** HB 2368

I support HB 2368.

Pauline Lutkenhouse  
email: [honolii@ilhawaii.net](mailto:honolii@ilhawaii.net)  
tel.: 808-964-2236.  
27-808 Old Mamalahoa Hwy.  
Papaikou, HI 96781

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House Committees on Health and Higher Education

February 14, 2012

Testimony of Scott Daniels, PhD

HB 2368, Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo

1 This is testimony in support of HB 2368, Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo, which  
2 seeks to establish a medical residency program in Hilo.

3

4 Rural areas across the United States are experiencing severe physician shortages and this is only  
5 likely to worsen over the coming years. Hawaii's rural areas are especially affected by this trend  
6 as our state's remoteness adds to the isolation already presented by rural areas. One means of  
7 getting physicians to practice and stay in rural areas that has been shown to be effective is the  
8 establishment of rural residency programs. These programs help to better prepare physicians for  
9 the realities of practicing in a rural area, thereby increasing the likelihood that graduating  
10 physicians will begin and maintain rural practices. A 2009 report by the Robert Graham Center  
11 showed that studying medicine in a rural area can increase the likelihood of a physician  
12 practicing in a rural area by almost three times over a physician that does not receive rural  
13 training

14

15 Hawaii's rural areas are already facing severe physician shortages and this looks to only worsen  
16 if action is not taken soon. I believe that establishing a medical residency program in Hilo is one  
17 effective step that can be made to help alleviate the problem and urge you to pass HB 2368.

18

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 13, 2012



O'ahu  
(808) 733-5562  
Hawai'i Island  
(808) 935-0737

Committees on Health and Higher Education,

We, the citizens of Hawaii Island have demonstrated over and over again our support, financially and through professional in kind contributions for the Residency Program here at Hilo Medical Center. I ask for your support of HB 2368.

Please stand with us in that support by providing no less than \$400,000 per year for ongoing operations. It has been proven in numerous communities that doctors who perform their residency in communities where they are appreciated and can make a difference frequently stay and make their careers in those communities.

I was showing property to a brilliant doctor and his wife just last week. They have been here 5 years. I asked why they are now buying a house. He said, "I like it here, I can make a difference here." He then shared a couple of stories about how the patients and their families have reached out to him in gratefulness for healing work that he has done. I taught him the importance of having your own paint bucket to sit on at the carport party. He laughed and thanked me.

In all seriousness I know how tight money is but having physicians like this man, his family and the many others we are blessed to have on Hawaii Island right now is no time to scrimp. We the people of this island are worth this investment. We deserve this program and its benefits. As I shared in my opening, we have done our part, we are only asking for the natural support a program of this type deserves from the general fund of the State of Hawaii. This investment comes back multiple fold in reduced medical expenses for untreated conditions when the appropriate and ample number of skilled physicians are available.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. If you have questions of me my toll free # is 800-728-8555 or just email me at [mary@marybegier.com](mailto:mary@marybegier.com).

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Begier".

**Mary Begier, Realtor®**

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2009-2010 President Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce  
2010-2011 Chair Hawaii State Foundation on Culture & the Arts  
2012 Vice Chair Land Use Private Property Rights & Environment Forum National Assoc. of Realtors®

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** phoebel@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2368 on 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HED 2/14/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Phoebe Lambeth  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [phoebel@msn.com](mailto:phoebel@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments: