



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE

RANDY PERREIRA  
*Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0011  
Fax: 808.528.0922

NORA A. NOMURA  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0003  
Fax: 808.528.0922

DEREK M. MIZUNO  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808.543.0055  
Fax: 808.523.6879

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Health  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

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S.B. 596 – RELATING TO  
HAWAII HEALTH CORPS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO, supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 596. As proposed, the bill would establish the Hawaii Health Corps program that would provide loan assistance repayments to eligible physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners in any county that has a shortage of these health care professionals. More specifically, the bill would provide for loan repayments by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) through appropriations.

There is a definite need to improve access to health professionals in underserved rural Hawaii communities by repaying the educational loans of providers who agree to practice in these areas with a health professional shortage. The recipients must agree to serve for five consecutive years to be eligible for the loan repayment program. Hopefully, the program will also facilitate the long-term retention of these providers in an underserved Hawaii community beyond their contract with JABSOM.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 596.

Sincerely,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director