

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 311

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2013

RE: S.B. No. 665

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 665
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in the State through a comprehensive primary care workforce development plan that addresses the critical areas of health care provider loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the John A. Burns School of Medicine, The Queen's Medical Center, Hawaii Medical Association, Papa Ola Lokahi, Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians, Hawaii Pacific Health, and sixty-one individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from four individuals.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii has a shortage of physicians compared to similar populations throughout the United States. Studies of the physician workforce in Hawaii demonstrate extreme shortages of primary care specialties, most notably in rural areas. Rising demand on the health care system in Hawaii due to population growth, aging, and the prevalence of chronic disease calls for an increase in the existing physician base. Access to a personal physician has been shown to decrease morbidity and mortality while controlling health care costs through early

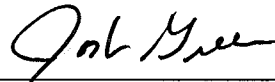


detection and careful management of chronic disease and deferral of unnecessary hospital admission and emergency room visits.

Your Committee further finds that physicians tend to remain and practice where they train. If bright medical students leave Hawaii to train elsewhere, they are less likely to return and practice in Hawaii. Strong evidence suggests that if medical school and residency are completed by medical students in Hawaii, eighty-five percent of those medical students will remain and practice as physicians in Hawaii.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 665 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,

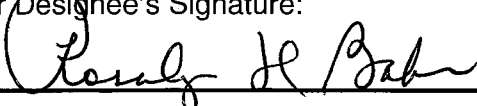


JOSH GREEN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 665	Committee Referral: HTH, WAM	Date: 02/11/2013		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GREEN, Josh (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	5	-	-	-
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes