



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Bellati, Chair

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 1383

Relating to Health

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 6, 2013, 10:30 AM, Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports House Bill 1383, which works to address the shortage of primary care clinicians in rural Hawai'i and other underserved areas. We believe that the state-based loan repayment program, the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence programs, the family residency program, and development of new accredited family health centers in association with teaching hospitals will provide much-needed incentives to help primary care clinicians choose to practice where they are most needed, including neighbor islands and other rural areas.

We urge you to pass this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

H.B. 1383, RELATING TO HEALTH
House Committee on Health
February 6, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** for H.B. 1383, Relating to Health. My name Dr. Gerard Akaka, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer for The Queen's Medical Center.

In a recent Big Island survey, it was revealed that 32% of Big Island physicians intend to end their professional service within 5 years. As the area with one of the severest physician shortages statewide, this exodus will exasperate the problem. Improving the pipeline of medical students and residents is imperative to providing healthcare to rural areas across Hawaii. Supporting and enhancing primary care training programs is a significant opportunity to promote the growth of medicine practice in rural areas. Studies have shown that up to 80% of doctors who go through similar rural residency programs remain to begin their own practices in the area. These programs promote financial sustainability, professional opportunities, and community support – all important factors in attracting new physicians to the area. This is, most certainly, Hawaii's best hope for attracting and retaining physicians.

The 'Imi Ho'ola program has been supported by The Queens Health Systems. We are committed to this program that provides students from disadvantaged background an educational opportunity. In keeping with our mission to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiian and all of the people of Hawaii, we are particularly proud of each of the Native Hawaiian graduates from this program. Equally significant, of the 226 successful graduates from 'Imi Ho'ola, a highly impressive 85% are providing primary care services, and 96% are practicing in underserved and/or disadvantaged areas.

Your support for H.B. 1383 and its funding requests helps to foster the next generation of well trained physicians, who will stay in Hawaii and serve the areas that we know need our attention today and in the future.



Community Alliance for Mental Health

Board of Directors

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Randolph Hack

Gina Hungerford

Susan King

To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Health
Re: HB 1383

To: The Honorable Representative Bellati and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports HB 1383. The ability to attract and retain Primary Care doctors is critical to the transformation of Hawai'i's health care delivery system.

The need for this is so great that it is clearly stated within the Affordable Care Act. The federal government not only sees Hawai'i as a rural state. With the exception of urban Honolulu the rest of Hawai'i is classified as frontier. While that might offend some there are advantages for the health care system. Student loan repayment and a myriad of other enticements are included in the ACA. Not only primary care doctors are addressed though, nurses, pharmacist, technicians, etc.

In short we need more doctors and all forms of health care workers. This is why we strongly support HB 1383.

Mahalo,
Robert Scott Wall
Vice-President

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Health and Labor and Public Employment
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 8:30 am

by

Winona Mesiona Lee, MD
Director, NHCOE and The Imi Ho'ola Post-baccalaureate Program
and on behalf of

Keawe Kaholokula, PhD
Chair, Department of Native Hawaiian Health
Allen Hixon, MD

Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
and

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1383 RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chairs Belatti and Nakashima, Vice Chairs Morikawa and Hashem and Members of the Committees, thank you for allowing us to testify today. The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports the intent of HB 1383, which would support our Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, expand education to train primary care physicians, and fund an educational loan repayment program to attract and retain rural health care providers.

Native Hawaiian Health and Primary Care

To ensure the future health of Hawai'i's people, JABSOM is committed to producing a diverse health care workforce dedicated to meeting the health needs of all people of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Native Hawaiians continue to suffer high rates of diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and obesity while remaining severely under-represented in all health professions. Only 4% of licensed physicians in Hawai'i are of Native Hawaiian descent, although 26.2% of the population is of that ancestry. The good news: Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander health care providers are more likely than others to return to serve their home communities and provide services to those populations most in need.

Specifically, HB 1383 would support the sustainability of the 'Imi Ho'ōla Program, a post-baccalaureate, labor-intensive pre-medical school preparatory program for disadvantaged students, and the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE), which help the medical school produce more primary care providers while simultaneously boosting the numbers of Native Hawaiians in the health professions.

The Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) creates paths for Native Hawaiian students to succeed in health careers. Through community and educational collaborations (i.e. Na Pua No'eau-Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Children, and Ahahui O Na Kauka-

Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians), NHCOE is able to extend its reach annually to over 2,500 students spanning K-12, undergraduate, and post-baccalaureate. NHCOE's Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine program works with promising Native Hawaiian students to become competitive applicants to health professions schools, such as JABSOM. Due to NHCOE's pipeline efforts, nearly 25% of 'Imi Ho'ōla applicants for the 2013 entering class are Native Hawaiian.

The 'Imi Ho'ōla program, whose students have been generously supported by the Queen's Health Systems, provides educational opportunities to aspiring MDs from disadvantaged backgrounds who demonstrate a commitment to underserved communities of Hawai'i. Students who complete the program automatically earn enrollment in the next JABSOM MD Class. To date, 226 'Imi Ho'ōla alumni have successfully graduated from JABSOM. Of these graduates, 38% are Native Hawaiian, 85% are providing primary care services, and 96% are practicing in underserved and/or disadvantaged populations.

Supporting Primary Care Graduate Medical (Post-MD) Education

HB 1383 would allow JABSOM's existing Family Medicine Residency Program to expand faculty and increase its number of training positions.

Residency trainees are newly minted physicians working under our faculty's supervision in order to prepare for their licensure and board certification. They are the closest step in the educational pipeline to the point where they may become full-fledged doctors. Currently, Hawai'i produces only six board-eligible Family Medicine physicians per year. A comprehensive approach to address the physician workforce shortage is needed.

A robust primary care workforce is associated with improved population health outcomes and lower overall health care costs. As the Legislature knows by funding JABSOM's Hawai'i Health Workforce Assessment, our State's own physician shortage is worsened by the fact that a large percentage of doctors practicing in Hawai'i are reaching retirement age.

Physician and Nurse Practitioner Loan Repayment Program

Inspired by the Hawai'i State Legislature's creation of a Hawai'i Health Corps, JABSOM sought private funding and Affordable Care Act monies to launch the unfunded health corps program concept. Through the generosity of HMSA and The Queen's Medical Center, this year we have begun paying back up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for two physicians and two nurse practitioners who have committed to serve at least two years in rural centers on O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island. Next year, an additional nine loan repayment contracts will be drawn up. With the Legislature's support, such as that offered in SB 665, we hope to increase the number of loan repayment contracts to 50 a year, which would significantly address the shortage of rural-area health care providers.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1383 provided that it does not adversely affect other UH budget priorities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 11:45 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: chungleunha@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1383 on Feb 6, 2013 10:30AM

HB1383

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 6, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chung-Eun Ha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like to offer my strong support for HB 1383. The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence are vital programs which create diversity in the health care workforce by providing opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or underrepresented populations to succeed in medicine. For almost 40 years, these programs have been very successful in increasing a diverse healthcare workforce that provides services to underserved communities in Hawaii. Major funding for these programs came from federal grants and I think now is a good time for the state to take over the funding for the programs.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 5, 2013

Re: Support HB 1383

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support HB 1383: Primary Health Care; Primary Care Workforce Development Plan which appropriates 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 loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion.

The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) are vital programs which create diversity in the health care workforce by providing opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented communities to succeed in the health professions.

Without these programs, students who could be our future healthcare providers would not have this opportunity for a pathway out of poverty.

Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence has outreach programs for Kindergarten-12th grade, college, and graduate school to help students on their path into health careers. Students are asked to consider all the multiple jobs within the healthcare team so they can decide which is best for them.

We need to support the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, Imi Ho'ola, and Primary care workforce development to provide quality healthcare for all of Hawaii's diverse people. We need to support health providers who promise to serve our under-served communities.

I urge you to pass this Bill.

Mahalo,

Ed Treschuk

Kaimana Chow Testimony

RE: HB 1383 Relating to Health

I would like to testify in support for HB 1383: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan which appropriates funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in the State through a comprehensive primary care workforce development plan that increases the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity, and primary care workforce expansion.

My name is Kaimana Chow, and I am currently a second-year medical student at JABSOM. I am also a 2011 graduate of the `Imi Ho`ola Post-Baccalaureate Program.

I come from two very rural areas. I was born in Homer, Alaska, and raised both there and on the island of Molokai. I attended The Kamehameha Schools at Kapalama, and continued on to receive my BA in Biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am the first college graduate in my family and will be the first physician.

As a Molokai resident, I have seen first hand the repercussions of physician shortage, in both primary care and sub-specialties. This translates into a community that host some of the highest rates of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

To address these disparities, not only on the island of Molokai, but also throughout all rural communities, I feel that it my duty to one day return to my home and fulfill my role as a community leader.

The `Imi Ho`ola Post-Baccalaureate Program and the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence have helped make that goal a reality by providing me with the opportunity to advance my education.

Myself, along with my fellow `Imi graduates, come from very diverse backgrounds. A majority of us come from disadvantaged and underrepresented populations as well. HB 1383 will help to produce future generations of diverse health care providers that are willing to return home, like myself, and give back to their communities.

The stipends I received during the program not only mitigated tuition costs, but also allowed me to purchase necessary textbooks, and focus more of my energies on my academics.

HB 1383 will create more opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to succeed in medicine, ultimately translating into an increase in physician availability throughout rural and underserved areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 5, 2013

I strongly support HB 1383 in its entirety.

The areas being addressed in this Bill are unfortunately, not new. I have been a Registered Nurse (RN) for over 30 years, and my experiences have continued to confirm the appalling truth that our healthcare system, in a very basic and essential way, has not made advances in providing quality care for ALL of us. Yes, scientific and technological developments have been made. Best practice guidelines and standards of care have improved health outcomes. However, all too often, discussions about healthcare quality, do not address the critical issue of ACCESS to care.

My first job as a new nursing school graduate was assisting the Kahalu'u/Heeia-Kea community in efforts to bring primary health care into the community. I was hired by the Kualoa-Heeia Kea Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project as a community organizer mobilizing support with the families – kupuna and youth, to push for the establishment of a health clinic right in the community. For too long, the elders, pregnant youth, and working people of all ethnicities, but particularly, Native Hawaiians, had to make it over the Ko'olau's to access care. Many, with chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, women at risk of high risk pregnancies, persons with disabilities and those with behavioral health conditions went without because of the barriers to care – no transportation, high costs, no child care, no ramps.

I had been politicized by our movements in the 60's and early 70's. I believed that the slogan, "Health Care Is A Right, Not A Privilege!" popularized by the Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR), an organization initially organized by healthcare workers to provide clinical/ hands-on, and political support for the civil rights, student, women's, and anti-war movements, was absolutely correct and just! While I was attending my 1st year in nursing school in San Francisco, I had been inspired by community-based health clinic that the Black Panther Party had created in Oakland.

We organized hard, and our efforts gave rise to the community's first primary healthcare center. With the support of Sister Maureen and the St. Francis Medical Center Board of Directors, the Kahalu'u Medical Clinic was borne.

It no longer exists.

When I worked in the struggle against the rampant discrimination, and for provision of care for persons with HIV/AIDS – men, women and children, barriers to accessing care were blatant. I now work in the area of organ and tissue transplants. We are having difficulty finding pediatricians who will provide primary care to children needing kidney transplants.

Our healthcare system does not support access to care. The medical-industrial complex drives revenue generating, high cost, anti prevention-oriented care. There are many in the healthcare field who struggle daily to provide compassionate quality care. There are many in this field who clearly understand that quality care is empty without ACCESS to that care.

You have an opportunity to move towards making this situation "Pono". The time is right. The time has been right for generations.

Support/fund HB 1383. We are counting on you.

Lorayne K. Treschuk, RN

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 2:17 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: shelly.soong@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1383 on Feb 6, 2013 10:30AM

HB1383

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 6, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelley Soong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Funding for programs such as 'Imi Ho'ōla and the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence help not only students underrepresented in the medical field, but also the communities they work in.

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**Testimony to the House Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1383 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii **supports HB 1383** relating to Health.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The quality of healthcare that Hawaii has enjoyed for years is now in jeopardy. It is on the verge of declining because healthcare providers are no longer being paid for essential services at a level sufficient to cover annually increasing costs. The health care system must be maintained and challenges must be addressed.

Therefore, The Chamber supports prescriptions of improvements of the quality of our health care system that will increase long term care capacity and access statewide. We believe appropriating funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in the State through a comprehensive primary care workforce development plan will help address the shortage of doctors, especially on the neighbor islands, as well as keep the providers in Hawaii.

In light of the above, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports HB 1383. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 12:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tiffniekakalia@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1383 on Feb 6, 2013 10:30AM

HB1383

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 6, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffnie Kakalia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Re: Support HB 1383 I strongly support HB 1383: Primary Health Care; Primary Care Workforce Development Plan which appropriates 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 loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion. The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence are vital programs which create diversity in the health care workforce by providing opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or underrepresented populations to succeed in the health professions.

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