

Hawaii State Legislature
SB498
Testimony of Kelley Withy, President of Hawaii State Rural Health Association
February 2013

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association would like to express our strongest support for SB498. We are acutely aware of the fact that rural areas in Hawaii suffer from lack of access to necessary healthcare services, including Emergency Medical Services. Without such services we don't have the infrastructure to support our most vulnerable citizens.

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association supports legislation that will increase services to rural communities, including legislation that supports expanding the health workforce, developing assistance programs for rural areas, and expanding the facilities available to rural citizens. We look forward to this being done in culturally appropriate ways with grass roots community involvement at all steps of the process.

Therefore we strongly support this bill and hope you will pass it. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
President, Hawaii State Rural Health Association