

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

March 13, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Supporting SB 665 SD 1: Relating to Health

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, a majority of home health agencies and hospices, as well as long term care facilities and other health care organizations. Our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 665 SD 1, which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Health Corps and for the education of primary care physicians.

The Hawaii Health Corps was created by the Legislature through Act 187 in 2012. The program encourages physicians, physicians assistants, and nurse practitioners to serve in counties with shortages of these types of practitioners, particularly in rural areas, by offering them student loan repayments.

Rural areas are particularly affected by shortages because of lower compensation when compared with urban areas. The low compensation is caused by an unfavorable payer mix that is typical of rural areas. The average physician graduates from medical school with about \$150,000 in student loans. With such a large amount to pay back, it is no surprise that most of them seek employment in urban areas rather than rural areas.

Statewide, Hawaii currently faces a shortage of 600 physicians when compared with communities of the same size on the mainland, according to a report of the Physician Workforce Assessment Project of the John A. Burns School of Medicine. Most of that shortage is in the area of primary care. That number is projected to double by 2020 if changes are not made soon. This bill addresses the shortage of physicians and physician extenders in rural areas and the overall shortage of primary care physicians.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports SB 665 SD 1.



Community Alliance *for* Mental Health

Board of Directors

Anne Chipchase
President

Robert Scott Wall
Vice President

Crystal Aguinaldo
Secretary

William Lennox
Treasurer

Sunny Algos

Jessica Carroll

Randolph Hack

Gina Hungerford

Susan King

To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Health
Re: SB 665 SD1

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

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help supports SB 665 SD1 as a critically important step in the transformation of the delivery of health care in these islands. No matter how good our health care system is it is only as good as the doctors who deliver it. Without those doctors we might as well be mailing it in. We know the high cost of living coupled with crippling student loans conspire to keep new doctors away from Hawai'i. Whatever we can do to help draw new talent and fresh blood into the field should and must be attempted. Therefore we strongly support SB 665 SD1.

Mahalo,
Robert Scott Wall
Vice-President]



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Bellati, Chair

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 665

Relating to Health

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

March 13, 2013, 8:30 a.m., Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association **supports** Senate Bill 665, 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.

March 13, 2013 - Wednesday
8:30 AM
Conference Room 329
State Capitol

To: Senator Chun Oakland, Green, Ruderman, Nishihara, and Shimabukuro
House Committee on Health

From: Ghislaine Chock, APRN-RX
Nurse Practitioner Women's Health
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Re: SB 655 SD2 Relating to Health (Treatment of partners of patients with STDs)

Position: Strongly Support

Dear Senator Chun Oakland, Green, Ruderman, Nishihara and Shimabukuro, and Health Committee Members:

I strongly agree with the bill SB 655 S.D. 2 which allows health professionals, subject to certain requirements, to treat the heterosexual partners of patients diagnosed as having Chlamydia or gonorrhea, the sexually transmitted diseases recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for expedited partner therapy, by dispensing or prescribing medication to the heterosexual partners without examining the partners.

Hawaii has a large population of immigrants particularly pregnant females who suffer from sexually transmitted diseases acquired in their home land. Most of them do not have insurance right away. Many clinics provide free treatment through the generous Family Planning Service. Unfortunately, partners hesitate to seek treatment for whatever reasons. The current antibiotic regimes are safe and have no side effects. In addition, although treatment is provided to female patients, she gets re-infected and requires multiple treatments throughout the course of her pregnancy due to re-exposure. This is not a financially sound practice but currently has to be done that way.

Furthermore, the implication is enormous for newborns that are found to have Chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomoniasis, to name a few. It is important to minimize health risks for women and children by simply being able to treat partners without examining them.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.