

**SB665**

**TESTIMONY**



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
Monday, February 4, 2013 at 1:15  
by

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

Dr. Keawe Kaholokula, PhD  
Chair, Department of Native Hawaiian Health

Dr. Allen Hixon, MD  
Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health  
and

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

RE: SB 665 Relating to Health

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing us to testify today. The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports the intent of SB 665, 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, SB 665 would support the sustainability of the `Imi Ho`ola 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**

SB 665 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 SB665 provided that it does not adversely affect other UH budget priorities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



**S.B. 665, RELATING TO HEALTH**  
**Senate Committee on Health**  
**February 4, 2013, 1:15 p.m.**  
**Room 229**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** for S.B. 665, 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 S.B. 665 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.

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Takai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB665

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Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernadette M Luning	Individual	Support	No

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty Coda	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Wallace	Individual	Support	No

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**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

**Monday February 4, 2013**

**1:15 p.m.**

**Conference Room 229**

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Sen. Josh Green, Chair  
Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association  
Dr. Steven Kemble, MD, President  
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair  
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair  
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director  
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: SB 665 RELATING TO HEALTH

In Support.

The HMA appreciates the effort to enable physicians to service rural and underserved areas.

Hawaii is currently experiencing a patient access to medical care crisis due to an inadequate supply of physicians statewide.

Economic incentives that reduce the financial burden of a medical practice can serve as meaningful incentive to practice in rural areas.

Financial burdens include:

- Overhead that can be as high as 75% of gross income;
  - Overhead includes, high medical malpractice insurance premiums (premiums vary by medical specialty);
- Overhead includes increasing manpower, office rent and other business expenses;
- Income is based on inadequate payment for services from private and public health plans; and
- For new physicians, typical student loan debt of \$150,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**OFFICERS**

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Enomoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health  
on February 4, 2013 by Brian Imada

RE: SB 665 Relating to Health

My name is Brian Imada, a former 'Imi Ho'ola graduate, and a current first year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I would like to testify in support for SB 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan. I am extremely grateful to the 'Imi Ho'ola program for everything that it has done for me. 'Imi Ho'ola gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of getting into medical school and brought me one step closer to becoming a physician. I am from the small, rural town of Honoka'a on the island of Hawaii. I am of Filipino and Japanese ancestry and the first in my family to attend college and obtain a college degree. I grew up with very few academic resources and role models to look up to for advice and guidance throughout my life and getting into a higher academic institution presented many obstacles. For those reasons, I felt that I was at a disadvantage academically compared to my peers and getting into medical school seemed nearly impossible for me. After applying to JABSOM and receiving my rejection letter, I lost some hope that I would be able to fulfill my dream of becoming a physician. However, soon after, I received my acceptance letter into the 'Imi Ho'ola program, which changed my life. 'Imi Ho'ola is a rigorous one year program that strengthens your background in the biological sciences and raises your awareness on rural health and health disparities in Hawaii. After successful completion of the program, students matriculate into JABSOM to begin their first year of medical school.

The 'Imi Ho'ola program is so demanding that we are advised not to work throughout the program. In order to be supported financially during the program, we were given monthly stipends from The Queen's Health Systems. I believe that these stipends were crucial in allowing me to focus on my schoolwork, instead of having to worry about making money for my daily living.

My ultimate career goal is to return to Honoka'a to serve my community and being in the 'Imi program for this past year has definitely strengthened and solidified that desire to practice in rural communities and serve as a type of physician that the rural community deserves. I humbly ask for your consideration for passing this bill so that others with circumstances similar to my own are given a chance to fulfill their dream of becoming a physician and serving those in underserved areas of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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SB665

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Kajiyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB665!

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SB665

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlisle Haworth	Individual	Support	No

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1113 Davenport St., Apt. B-5  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

February 1, 2013

Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program & Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence**

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE), which I understand may benefit from the passage of SB 665. Since 2010, I have been a recipient of personal enrichment services provided to me by both of these organizations. My experiences with these programs have been life changing. Growing up on Maui in a family where no one before me had ever pursued a college education made it nearly impossible for me to access academic advising and mentoring to help me enter the field of medicine. Having participated in the 'Imi Ho'ōla Program and Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine (through the NHCOE) has helped to give me the guidance to pursue my dreams of one day becoming a doctor. The training and skills provided to me through these programs have helped me to develop a competitive application package for admissions to medical school. Just this week NHCOE program staff made time to meet with me for a mock admissions interview—this was practice for an actual interview that I had just today for admissions to the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine. Needless to say, today's interview went very well.

There is so much more that I could say about how both the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and NHCOE has changed my life that it would fill many more pages. In summary, I would like to offer my strongest support and humble request that these programs be provided with the proper support that they need to continue their missions. My hope is that these programs will survive to help other students, like myself, who hope to be physicians to serve in the most health disparate populations of our beloved Hawai'i. Mahalo nui loa for your time and this opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chace Moleta', written in a cursive style.

Chace Moleta



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

### **Papa Ola Lokahi**

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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### **Executive Director**

*Hardy Spoehr*

## **TESTIMONY**

### **SB 665: RELATING TO HEALTH**

Monday, February 4, 2013

1:15 pm

Conference Room 229

State Capitol

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

Welina. Papa Ola Lokahi strongly supports this measure which provides support to encourage the development of more health professionals serving the health care needs of our island people.

As the requirements of the ACA begin to take effect, there will be an increasing demand for physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, particularly in our neighbor island communities. This measure will enable our medical school and other graduate schools to address this growing need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

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SB665

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Takatsugi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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I wish to share my strong support for Senate Bill 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan. This bill appropriates funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in our State through a comprehensive primary care workforce development plan that addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion. By creating a pipeline that supports more primary care providers who will serve rural and underserved populations, it gives opportunities for more promising and deserving students to succeed in the competitive field of medicine. Please consider.

Charles R. Macías Neal, MD, PhD  
Professor of Pediatrics and Neonatology Division Director  
Kapi'olani Medical Specialists and  
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine  
Medical Director, Newborn Intensive Care Unit  
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children  
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cneal@kapiolani.org

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea Dinnan	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My name is Chelsea Dinnan. I am a nursing student working towards a Family Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Public Health Nurse degree I am humbly asking legislators to consider making the following change to the bill's language: o "The continuing difficulty in accessing primary care throughout the state requires investment in the education of both physicians and nurse practitioners. o I respectfully request you amend the bill line 43 to read, "(1) addressing medical school debt to educational debt to a loan repayment program for medical students, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals.

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I would like to offer my strong support for SB 665: 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 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 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.

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To Whom this May Concern,

I would like to offer my support for SB 665.

Aloha, my name is Courtney Gaddis and I am a Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine graduate and I am currently in the 'Imi Ho'ola Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I was born and raised in Hawaii and I grew up as an active participant in many sports. My parents got divorced when my brother and I were at a very young age, so for much of my childhood I went back and forth between my parents. Both of my parents worked two jobs to do all they could to provide for my brother and I. My family has struggled financially throughout most of my life but luckily, when I got to college; I was able to earn a full athletic scholarship for basketball at the University of Hawaii. I am a graduate of Kalani High School, and for as long as I can remember my dream was to become a doctor. I heard about the Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine from a hula sister of mine and I decided to join the program. Being a part of the Pathways program was such a blessing to me. I was able to learn so much about the medical school application process and I met mentors that have continued to give me valuable guidance as I continue my journey in becoming a physician. It was through the pathway program that I learned about the 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program. The 'Imi Ho'ola Program gives students of disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to succeed in medicine. This program has pushed me to my potential not only academically but also in my self-growth. 'Imi Ho'ola has provided me with the resources that I need to succeed in the medical field. One of the most valuable parts of the program is the way in which the importance of serving the community is demonstrated. Through this program I have been given the opportunity to continue to pursue my dream in becoming a physician. The 'Imi stipends have allowed me to focus on school and has relieved me from the financial burden, while I am not able to work, due to the high demands of the program.

As a Native Hawaiian, I truly want to reach out to those in need throughout Hawaii. The Pathways program and 'Imi Ho'ola have been extremely influential in giving me the resources and guidance to continue my aspirations to provide healthcare in underserved communities throughout the islands. I could not be more thankful to be given the amazing opportunity to be apart of these incredible programs that have made such an immense impact in getting me to where I am today. It is so important that these programs are available for students so that people like me, students who are disadvantaged, and who otherwise might not have made it, have to chance to not only succeed in medicine, but also become influential leaders in the medical field.

Thank you,  
Courtney Gaddis

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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RE: SB 665

Aloha kakou,

I would like to offer my support for SB 665: 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 addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion.

The patients that we assist in the Native Hawaiian Health Program (NHHP) at The Queen's Health Systems are often very sick and unable to navigate the complexities of tertiary and quaternary care. The NHHP supports this plan to expand and increase the primary care providers in Hawai'i. Their role supports individuals prior to admission and after discharge. When patients do not have a primary care provider, they often return to the Emergency Room taking up valuable resources from those who need it most.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine's 'Imi Ho'ola 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 under-represented populations to succeed in medicine. Having these programs supports a much needed part of the healthcare pipeline. Utilizing local talent who understand the cultural differences ensures better quality care.

Please consider supporting this basic healthcare infrastructural need whose role in the healthcare industry will be relied upon in the coming years of healthcare reform.

Me ka 'oia 'i'o,  
Diane Paloma, MBA, PhD (abd)

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dionne Mesiona-Pepple	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 7:19:01 AM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Lenora lorenzo	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Support this bill with the following amendments per the HSCFN. Strike out medical and add educational debt and include nurse practitioners . Hawaii ohana are experiencing difficulty with accessing health care and need qualified primary care providers including physicians, nurse practitioners to provide care. The cost of education is an issue to all health care providers and we need your support. Mahalo for your kind considerations and time. Dr. Lenora Lorenzo APRN, BC FNP, GNP, ADM, CDE, FAANP Nurse practitioner Primary Care Provider

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**Date:** Friday, February 01, 2013 7:33:10 PM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Walsh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: These programs are an essential part of building a strong, equitable and high quality health care workforce in Hawaii. Please support this legislation. Mahalo!

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genie Kauhane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James E. Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Manning	Individual	Support	No

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerome Lee, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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RE: SB 665

I would like to offer my support for SB 665: 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 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 medicine.

I am a recent graduate of the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and without this program, I would not be a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, pursuing my dreams to become a physician and serve Hawai'i's people.

The 'Imi program has given me the opportunity to start my journey in the medical profession. I grew up with no role models who worked in the health care field, so I did not know what exactly to expect as a physician or even how to apply to medical school. I was very fortunate to have lots of guidance during college, but even when I applied, I was waitlisted (and later rejected). Thankfully, I was accepted into the 'Imi program, which gave me a second chance to get into medical school.

The year I spent in the 'Imi program has been one of the most grueling yet impactful years of my life. I had never sacrificed so much for school, and my limited free time affected my family and friends as well. However, the things I gained from this program were worth all of the sacrifice. I learned valuable skills, such as time management, study strategies, and communication. I met caring and brilliant faculty who will remain my lifelong mentors. I was exposed to issues in Native Hawaiian health and the health care of Hawai'i, such as health disparities, local physician shortages, and rural health care. I had the cherished opportunity to visit Kalaupapa, learn about its history, and understand the stigma that surrounded the once-segregated leprosy colony. Through 'Imi, I shadowed an internal medicine physician in Kaua'i for a week, and it greatly influenced me to consider primary care as a career choice today.

Now, as a first-year medical student, I am proudly representing my family as the first person to enter the health care profession. I am proudly representing my high school, Kapolei High School, as probably the first of its alumni to enter medical school. (In fact, I recently returned to my alma mater to talk to the students there about pursuing medicine and other health careers. I encouraged them to enter the health care field to fill the many shortages we have throughout the state.) And I am proudly representing the 'Imi Ho'ōla Program as one of numerous graduates who are pursuing medicine and hoping to serve Hawai'i's people.

SB 665 will provide much-needed financial support for 'Imi students, who, like me, come from disadvantaged backgrounds and may be deterred by the cost of the education. It will especially assist students who are from neighbor islands or other Pacific islands who do not have the luxury of staying at their parents' houses and need to pay for rent, groceries, and utilities. When these students graduate from medical school, they will be more likely to return to their hometowns to practice, which will help with the physician shortages in these more rural areas.

If SB 665 passes, it will provide tremendous support to future generations of 'Imi Ho'ōla students and physicians who will give back to Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health  
on February 4, 2013 by *Jolana Gollero*

RE: SB 665 Relating to Health

Thank you very much for allowing me to testify today. I would like to testify in support for SB 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan.

I am a graduate of the Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program and am currently in my first year at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am of Hawaiian, Filipino, and Chinese decent. I was born and raised in Waipahu and am the first person in my family to pursue a career as a physician. My mother has always been my inspiration to strive for success despite obstacles. She worked her way up from a small plantation camp in Maui, put herself through school while caring for her younger siblings and became the first in our family to graduate college with a degree in nursing. She raised my two sisters and myself as a single parent and instilled in us not only her perseverance, but also her appreciation for the blessings we have.

I have been extremely blessed throughout the course of my life, one of the most important being Imi Ho'ola. The program challenged me more than I had ever been pushed, both mentally and physically. Before the program, I had unconsciously set a boundary lower than my full potential. However, through Imi Hoola I realized that limitations are my own creation and I have surpassed what I once thought was "impossible." Imi Ho`ola helped me to recognize my personal strengths and how I could use those to prepare myself for the hardships of medical school and my career as a physician.

Another reason Imi Ho'ola was such a blessing, was that it had a monthly stipend. Since Imi Hoola is a post-baccalaureate program, it is not covered by federal financial aid. Furthermore, the curriculum is so rigorous that it is almost impossible to keep a job while expecting to successfully complete the program. Without the immense generosity of Queen's hospital for providing a monthly stipend, I could not have continued in the program because of the huge financial burden that was already placed on my family when I did my undergraduate career in the mainland. Having a stipend lifted a huge burden and definitely allowed me to focus more intently on my academics.

I am so incredibly grateful that I had the opportunity of being in Imi Hoola. Not only did it develop me as an individual, the program also reinforced my connection to the Native Hawaiian community. We learned much about the lack of access to health care on the west side of Oahu and the outer islands, as well as the diseases that economic conditions predispose certain demographics to. Having the experience to go out into the community and experience these populations really gave me the sense that I could make a difference



and give back to the communities where I came from. Hawaii is already experiencing a physician shortage, which will only get worse by 2020. Imi Ho'ola was a blessing to me and gave me the opportunity to make my dream of becoming a physician a reality. Now it is my turn to give back to the community, lessen the physician shortage in Hawaii by encouraging colleagues to practice within the state, and also inspiring children and teens from similar backgrounds to strive for careers so that they can eventually give back to their communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon cannella	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: Joseph Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula, PhD

RE: SB 665

I would like to offer my strong support for SB 665: 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 and retention plan that addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs to build our own, and primary care workforce expansion.

As a clinical health psychologist and Associate Professor and clinical Chair at JABSOM, I know first-hand the physician workforce shortage we are experiencing in rural and neighbor island communities and the public health consequences of not addressing this issue. Most affected by this shortage are Native Hawaiians and Filipinos and people who are most economically challenged because of the limited job opportunities in many rural communities. These are people who already suffer, disproportionately, from more chronic diseases and higher mortality and morbidity rates in both rural and urban areas of Hawaii.

To ensure the future health of Hawaii’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. Currently, rural health care, especially on the island of Hawaii is in crisis due to a shortage of physicians, with the largest specialty shortage being primary care. In our state, Native Hawaiians continue to suffer high rates of diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and obesity and remain severely under-represented in all health professions (i.e. only 4% of licensed physicians in Hawai‘i are of Native Hawaiian descent). Despite the small numbers of Native Hawaiian health professionals currently in practice, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander health care providers are more likely to return to serve their home communities and provide services to those populations most in need.

The Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence and the ‘Imi Ho‘ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program are two programs that promote diversity in the health care workforce by providing opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or underrepresented populations to succeed in medicine and become leaders in Hawaii’s healthcare community. They have a proven track record with demonstrated outcomes that helps to address the problems of physician shortage and lack of primary care providers. At the same time, they provide opportunities to increase the numbers of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the health professions.

The Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) improves the health of Native Hawaiians by creating pathways 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 has worked with promising Native

Hawaiian students to become competitive applicants to health professions school 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 provides educational opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who demonstrate a commitment to serve in underserved communities of Hawai'i. 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.

In conclusion, it is vital that we address the health of our rural and neighbor island communities by addressing the physician shortage in these areas. However, in doing so, we need to ensure that the physicians we train to work in these areas are not only professionally but culturally competent to do so. What is even better is that the physicians we train are actually from these communities. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health  
on February 4, 2013 by Kaimana Chow

RE: SB 665 Relating to Health

I would like to testify in support for SB 665: 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 has 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. SB 665 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.

SB 665 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.

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Yokouchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In strong support of measusre provided amendments offered by Dean Mary Boland are incorporated.

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February 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Katie Steinhelfer and I am a nursing student working towards a Master's in nursing to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the University of Hawaii. I am writing to request that the legislators make the following changes be made to SB 655:

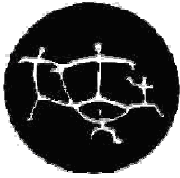
“The continuing difficulty in accessing primary care throughout the state requires investment in the education of both physicians and nurse practitioners. I respectfully request you amend the bill line 43 to read, “(1) addressing ~~medical school~~ debt to educational debt to a loan repayment program for medical students, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals .”

Appreciatively,

Katie Steinhelfer, RN

[Kas2@hawaii.edu](mailto:Kas2@hawaii.edu)

614-499-5272



# HAWAI'I ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 229

To:  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
The Senate Committee on Health

From:  
Traci Masaki-Tesoro, MD  
President, Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 655 - Relating to Health**

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Honorable Chair Green and Vice Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the membership of the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians, I am pleased to provide strong testimony in support of SB 665. The shortage of family physicians in Hawaii is extreme and worsening. The people of Hawaii deserve high quality, comprehensive, coordinated, and patient centered care that can best be provided in a primary care setting.

We applaud this bill which takes a comprehensive approach to improve the primary care workforce pipeline. Student loan repayment will encourage more bright young people to enter primary care careers. Diversity programs will assist those from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter medical careers and practice in communities of need. Expanding family medicine graduate medical education positions will allow additional students to complete their training in Hawaii and remain to practice in the state.

Family Physicians improve population health and decrease overall healthcare costs. On behalf of our members - practicing Family Physicians - we urge you to support this bill at the proposed funding levels.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Traci Masaki-Tesoro, MD  
President



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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawika Liu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, As a graduate of the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence fellowship, and a primary care physician boarded in internal medicine and pediatrics who was forced to leave Hawai'i because of a lack of employment opportunities, I am in strong support of SB 655. As a resident and attending physician, I heard many medical students speak of the economic necessity to choose sub-speciality careers because of the lack of support of primary care. Additionally, on a personal notice, my family could not afford to stay in Hawai'i because of my student loan debts. Additionally, I would like to remind the Committee of the importance of not focusing solely on physicians to fill the need for primary care. Mid level providers such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants to fill the primary care deficit. The cost of educating such mid level providers is much less than that of physicians, and the educational process much shorter. Lastly, it is also important to continue to focus on programs which allow underrepresented ethnicities, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, not simply those privileged enough to have private education Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. Kawika Liu

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kerri wizner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill and the communities that would directly benefit from this legislation.

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Barnes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I would like to offer my support for SB 665: 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 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 medicine. I have personally seen how beneficial these programs are to students and rural communities. As a Pacific Islander living in Hawaii I am hopeful these programs will continue to be funded to help provide the support needed for Native Hawaiians and other disadvantages students for many years to come. Thank you, Kimberly Barnes

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**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 9:41:03 AM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laua`e Gouveia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have been fortunate enough to be able to further my dream to be a primary care physician for Native Hawaiians on the neighbor islands. The Native Hawaiian Student Pathway Program allowed me to learn about the medical school process, prepare for the MCAT and receive enormous support to believe in myself! I am also fortunate to be apart of the Imi Ho`ola Program where I am working towards becoming a medical school student. If it was not for these programs, which are supported by this Senate Bill 665, my dream of becoming a Native Hawaiian physician would not be possible! Please support this bill so more Native Hawaiians like me can achieve our dream of being professionals for our Hawaiian people!!

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Written Testimony Presented Before the

Senate Committee on Health

February 4, 2013, 1:15 p.m.

by

Laura Reichhardt, R.N.

SB 665 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Green Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, SB 665, to appropriate funds to address the shortage of primary care providers in the State through a comprehensive workforce development plan that addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion. The bill proposes to address the primary care workforce shortage by 1) reducing medical school debt for primary care providers working in underserved areas in Hawaii 2) ensuring a culturally competent workforce with support and 3) expanding graduate medical education and residency training positions in primary care.

According to the AHRQ, 52% of nurse practitioners work in primary care and are more likely than physicians to work as primary care providers and to work in rural and remote areas. Similar to physicians, nurse practitioners still face considerable educational debt and limited primary care training and workforce opportunities in Hawaii. As a nurse practitioner student, I entered my master's education with the end goal of providing primary care services to the underserved populations in Hawaii. Educational debt and adequate training and workforce opportunities are factors I will have to consider when planning where to start my nurse practitioner career.

With this in mind, please consider changing the bill's language to the following:

“The continuing difficulty in accessing primary care throughout the state requires investment in the education of both physicians and nurse practitioners. I respectfully request you amend the bill line 43 to read, “(1) addressing medical school debt to educational debt to a loan repayment program for medical students, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals . . .”

I appreciate your continuing support of nursing healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**Date:** Saturday, February 02, 2013 8:26:00 AM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Melrose	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Health care needs are pressing for all segments of Hawaii's population, but particularly for Native HAwaiians and those of us who live on Neighbor Islands. Cutting programs that support these needy residents is not in the best interest of anyone. Keep our Hawaii healthy and happy. Mahalo - Maile

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Taulii	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RE: SB 665 I would like to offer my support for SB 665: 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 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 medicine. The underrepresentation of health care providers in neighbor islands and rural communities has a devastating affect on the health and well being of State residents. While we are fortunate to live in a State that has laid the foundation in addressing financial access to health care through employer based insurance, this policy is useless if there are no providers for our residents to receive care from. We must act quickly as many of our residents will desperately need medical care when the existing providers retire and the demand for services increases. Hawaii is paradise and home to people from all over the world. While the majority of the populous lives in Honolulu and surrounding areas, we must do everything to ensure ALL residents have access to care. Please support SB 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan and ensure that we do everything possible to provide care to Hawaii's people, throughout all the islands and communities. Respectfully, Maile Taulii, PhD, MPH

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**Date:** Saturday, February 02, 2013 9:14:52 PM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Lee, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a graduate of the Imi Ho'ola program and serve as a community doctor. I am also the current President for the Friends of Imi Ho'ola organization which supports each current Imi class with tuition assistance and supplies. Imi Ho'ola continues to provide academic support to students interested in becoming future doctors serving Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. The NHCOE also plants the seeds of possibility in our elementary, intermediate, high school and college students by providing age appropriate health related experience to the keiki in Hawaii's schools. These seeds encourage students to follow their hearts and nourish their care giving qualities and to consider becoming physicians who are compassionate to the needs of the individual as well as the community. I urge you to continue your support for this much needed program whose vision is to bring compassionate, intelligent, culturally sensitive, well trained, problem-solving individuals to the forefront as Hawaii's future healthcare providers. Thank you, Malia Lee, MD

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health

February 4, 2013, 1:15 p.m.

by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

SB 665 Relating to Health

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, SB 665, to provide a comprehensive approach to address the primary care workforce shortage. I am providing personal testimony on this measure.

The continuing difficulty in accessing primary care throughout the state requires investment in the education of both physicians and nurse practitioners. I respectfully request you amend the bill line 43 to read, “(1) addressing ~~medical school~~ educational debt to a loan repayment program for medical students, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals . . .”

I commend the committee for recognizing the contributions of nurse practitioners in primary care and supporting an appropriation to the Hawai'i Health Corps for loan repayments to eligible physicians and nurse practitioners.

I appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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THE SENATE  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013  
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 665

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO HEALTH.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

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SECTION 1. The legislature 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 call 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.

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Despite this shortage, many medical students graduating with considerable debt feel compelled to choose a non-primary-

28 care specialty with higher compensation in order to repay  
29 student loans. In addition, the current stock of physicians is  
30 rapidly approaching retirement age, suggesting a contraction in  
31 the existing physician workforce. As the entire United States  
32 develops the accountable care organization model, the  
33 competition to recruit new primary care providers will increase.

34 Furthermore, physicians tend to remain and practice where  
35 they train. If bright medical students leave Hawaii to train  
36 elsewhere, they are less likely to return and practice in  
37 Hawaii. Strong evidence suggests that if both medical school  
38 and residency are completed in Hawaii, eighty-five per cent of  
39 physicians will remain and practice in Hawaii.

40 The legislature further finds that a comprehensive approach  
41 that addresses the primary care workforce shortage in Hawaii  
42 requires incentivizing primary care by:

- 43 (1) Reducing medical school debt via a loan repayment  
44 program for medical students and other health  
45 professionals who serve in shortage specialties and  
46 underserved areas of Hawaii;
- 47 (2) Ensuring a culturally competent workforce for the  
48 unique and diverse peoples of Hawaii with support for  
49 programs and initiatives such as the Imi Hoola  
50 program, which brings disadvantaged young people into  
51 medical careers, and the native Hawaiian student

52 pathway to medicine program, which supports workforce  
53 diversity; and

54 (3) Expanding the graduate medical education or residency  
55 training positions in primary care that are available  
56 to students, such as doubling the faculty and  
57 infrastructure of the existing family medicine  
58 residency program at the John A. Burns school of  
59 medicine and developing new accredited family health  
60 centers in association with teaching hospitals.

61 The purpose of this Act is to address the shortage of  
62 primary care physicians in the State by making an appropriation  
63 for the Hawaii health corps and diversity programs and primary  
64 care workforce expansion at the John A. Burns school of  
65 medicine.

66 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
67 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
68 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
69 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
70 2014-2015 for deposit into the Hawaii health corps revolving  
71 fund.

72 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii health  
73 corps revolving fund the sum of \$300,000 or so much thereof as  
74 may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or  
75 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015

76 for purposes pursuant to section 309H-6, Hawaii Revised  
77 Statutes.

78 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
79 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the University of  
80 Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene for the  
81 purposes of this Act.

82 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
83 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$560,000 or so much  
84 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
85 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
86 2014-2015 to support programs of the John A. Burns school of  
87 medicine's native Hawaiian center of excellence such as the Imi  
88 Hoola program and the native Hawaiian student pathway to  
89 medicine program.

90 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
91 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine for the purposes of  
92 this Act.

93 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
94 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
95 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
96 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
97 2014-2015 for increases in faculty and infrastructure of the  
98 existing family medicine residency program and development of

99 new accredited family health centers in association with  
100 teaching hospitals.

101 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the John A.  
102 Burns school of medicine for the purposes of this Act.

103 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

104

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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109 **Report Title:**

110 Primary Health Care; Primary Care Workforce Development Plan;  
111 Appropriation

112

113 **Description:**

114 Appropriates funds to address the shortage of primary care  
115 physicians in the State through a comprehensive primary care  
116 workforce development plan that addresses the critical areas of  
117 loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce  
118 expansion.

119

120

121



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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marquita	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, my name is Marquita Granda and I am a graduate student from Kauai working towards my family nurse practitioner degree. I'm asking that you include nurse practitioners (NPs) in the discourse of SB 665. Many NP students have pursued this education as a means to serve rural communities where PCPs are few and far between. Accruing an excessive amount of school school loan debt— that will not, at least in part, be repaid by the government—will be a barrier to serving the communities that need us most because they may not be able to compensate us as well as others. I respectfully request you amend the bill line 43 to read, "(1) addressing medical school debt to educational debt to a loan repayment program for medical students, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals." Thank you for your consideration.

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Masaki Takai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Saturday, February 02, 2013 4:22:03 PM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Arakaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a primary care physician on a neighbor island, this bill is essential in helping us to combat the physician shortage. Our communities are in dire need of providers and this measure will definitely address this.

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RE: SB 665

I would like to offer my support for SB 665: 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 addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion.

As a lieutenant of EMS in the Hawaii County Fire Department I have seen the state of health care on the Big Island reach crisis level. According to an article by Greg Wiles, in the Honolulu Advertiser, the State of Hawaii is suffering from “a severe physician shortage”. This is especially true on the Big Island. While Oahu has 17% fewer physicians than is thought to be needed and Maui has a startling 33% deficit, the island of Hawaii is struggling with a 38% shortfall (Wiles, Greg. “Hawaii’s Shortage of Doctors may Double or Triple over the Next Decade”. Honolulu Advertiser 2010, March 28 print).

Due to the lack of primary care physicians, more residents are turning to EMS and Emergency Departments. Call volumes for all districts on the Big Island has gone up significantly. The culture is changing due to residents being unable to obtain a primary care physician, or for those with physicians to get a timely appointment.

A coworker of mine is under the care of one of the few private cardiologists on island. Even when he can schedule an appointment it is 3 weeks in advance. He routinely waits as long as 3 hours once he gets to the office. His story is common among Big Island residents, whether the need is for primary care or a specialist. As such, it has become more acceptable to visit the E.R. for a minor acute condition or stable chronic ailment. Because of this, despite the lower population density of East Hawaii, Hilo Medical Center has become the second busiest Emergency Room in the state, with only Queen’s Medical Center on Oahu being busier.

The ‘Imi Ho’ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence are vital programs which have made a considerable effort to aide in helping to combat this health care crisis by increasing the number of physicians that we have locally. The programs aide students from Hawaii and the Pacific Rim that is more likely to stay in State after obtaining licensure.

I have had the opportunity to meet graduates of the ‘Imi Ho’ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program that are now practicing physician, as well as some who are in their first year of medical school at John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). I have been impressed by the skills taught there and the success rate of those who have finished the program and continued to a career in medicine.

As I have recently decided to pursue further education myself, the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence has been of great help. Through their program I was able to travel from my home in Hilo to Oahu so that I could attend a demonstration of the teaching style at JABSOM. Their assistance has help decrease the financial burden to me and my

family that would hinder a nontraditional student, like me, from attempting to pursue a path to medicine.

It is time to reverse the trend that is threatening the health of our State. I would urge you to please pass SB 665.

Mahalo-

Michael L. Brigoli

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health  
on February 4, 2013 by *Nina Leialoha Beckwith*

RE: SB 665 Relating to Health

Aloha,

My name is Nina Leialoha Beckwith, a recent graduate of the Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine Program (or “Pathways” for short). I would like to testify in support for SB 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan.

As a Native Hawaiian student born and raised in these islands, it is with immense honor that I stand before you today to share my testimony in support of the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence programs. Mahalo for this opportunity.

To truly understand the impact the NHCOE staff and programs has had on my desire to becoming a primary care physician in Hawai’i, I must share a little bit about where I come from. My growing desire to pursue a career in medicine originated from my parents’ divorce when I was four. As a result of their separation, my family struggled with issues like drug abuse, alcoholism, domestic violence, and financial instability. Trying to overcome these challenges pushed me beyond despair.

Fortunately, I escaped these negative circumstances by diligently working hard in school. Upon graduation, I was offered a 10-year scholarship from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Humbled and inspired, I selected the University of California, Davis for their excellent science and pre-med program. I was the first in my family to gain a degree from a 4-year university.

As a minority student in higher education, I realized how incredibly lucky I was to have received academic and emotional support from genuine teachers and programs like the Bill Gates Foundation, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and the TRiO Scholars Program. Because of these programs and their dedicated staff members, I was granted access to an incredible college education, an opportunity many Native Hawaiian individuals didn’t have. Consequently, I became devoted to helping underserved communities, specifically those in my home state of Hawai’i, gain equal opportunities in education *and* healthcare.

Upon graduating from UC Davis in 2010, I moved back home to the islands. I was determined to help *other children* in Hawai’i gain the same opportunities to a college education and a promising career path as I had been blessed to receive. I became a 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher at Wai’anae Intermediate School, where I currently work today.

Serving in Wai’anae, a community that is nearly drowning in life-threatening issues, like Obesity, Diabetes, domestic violence, and more, has opened my eyes to the many obstacles Native Hawaiians face in achieving optimal health and wellness. Although I found a deep satisfaction in *teaching* underprivileged children in Wai’anae, I knew I needed to become a physician to achieve the level of change I want to see in the Native community and in the lives of my students. However, I was faced with a huge obstacle: I

didn't have a place to start. I had been away from Hawaii for so long I didn't have any mentors to talk to about medical school and what I needed to do to achieve my goal of becoming a physician. I felt lost. Fortunately, in 2011 I discovered the NHCOE Pathways program, applied, and got accepted.

The Pathways program has had a *tremendous* impact on my journey to becoming a primary care physician. The Pathways staff is *highly* dedicated to supporting Native Hawaiian students like myself in preparation for medical school. They not only exposed us Pathways students to various resources available to support native students, but offered financial assistance in preparation for the MCAT exam.

Most significantly, however, the *genuine* relationships that I was able to build with the Pathways physicians, staff members, and other Native Hawaiian pre-med students has catalyzed a chain-reaction of events in the past 2 years that has had a *huge* impact on myself *and* on my students at Wai'anae Intermediate School. For example, because of the Pathways program, I was able to receive financial assistance to attend the 2012 Advancing Native Health and Wellness Conference in Alaska. There, I learned that Native Hawaiians are at an alarmingly high risk of Diabetes and other life-threatening diseases and that the power of change truly relies in the hands of future generations of primary care doctors in Hawai'i. As a result, in the Fall of 2012 I started a Pre-Health Professions after school program for Wai'anae students who want to pursue careers in healthcare. In this club we would not only learn about various career paths in medicine, but also learn about Diabetes and what we can do to help prevent such diseases in the Wai'anae community. With continuous support from the Pathways staff, I have been able to connect my students to Native Hawaiian health professionals and inspire them to pursue their dreams of becoming physicians in Hawai'i.

Programs under the NHCOE, like Pathways, are not only critical in helping college-age students on their journeys to becoming physicians, but also younger generations who follow in our footsteps. It is crucial that we keep these programs alive and thriving as they provide fundamental support systems for Hawaii's children to enter medical school and serve as physicians in Hawaii. These programs empower students to take their health, education, and success into their own hands, which can give birth to lasting changes in our communities.

*Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono*- The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness. Please kokua in preserving the life of our people by supporting SB 665.

Mahalo for your patience and time.

February 3, 2013

To: The Senate Committee on Health

Hearing: February 4, 2013, 1:15 pm, Conference Room 229

From: Dr. Noreen Mokuau

Re: Support for SB 665, relating to health

Chairman Green and the members of the Senate Committee on Health

My name is Noreen Mokuau and I am testifying today in strong support of SB 665, 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.

As the dean and a member of the faculty of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I have worked closely with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for many years. My collaborative activities with JABSOM have been both as an administrator and as a researcher in health issues, particularly as it affects Native Hawaiians. I can testify to the accuracy of the statements made in SB 665 regarding the issues that confront the Native Hawaiian community, as well as those Native Hawaiian students (especially those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds) who seek medical training in order to serve the local community. The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program and Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence are vital programs that create diversity in the health care workforce by providing opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or underrepresented populations to succeed in medicine.

For these reasons, I urge your passage of SB 665.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.



Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health  
on February 4, 2013 by *YOUR NAME*

RE: SB 665 Relating to Health

I would like to testify in support for SB 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan.

Aloha and Hafa Adai. Thank you for allowing us to testify. My name is Paul Muna Aguon and I am a 2011-2012 Imi Ho'ola Post Baccalaureate Program graduate and 1<sup>st</sup> year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I can honestly and humbly say, that if it were not for the Imi Ho'ola Program and the support of its partners, I would not be where I am at today working towards my dream of becoming one of the Pacific's primary care physicians.

I am originally from the small island of Guam located in the Marianas. As a local boy from this small island, I grew up with an extremely strong sense of family and a passion to want to serve my people. My family continued to instill in me, how it important it was to use my blessings and talents to help improve our island, so that one day all our people may be able to share in the necessities and joys in life that only few were able to receive. As I began to mature through high school, I was consistently reminded and surrounded by these values of service and compassion. This is where my desire to want to serve people for the rest of my life was initiated. I then began to find my niche and aspirations as I started to examine the shortfalls of our island, specifically the limited access to healthcare. I began to realize that not everyone was able to receive affordable healthcare and that our island did not provide certain healthcare services that were part of the norm everywhere else, like Hawaii for example. From this point, I applied to college abroad in hopes of attaining a degree in medicine and eventually returning back home. I can humbly say that I am the first in my family to receive a bachelor's degree, and more importantly, with the help of Imi Ho'ola and its partners, I am the first to attend medical school and start my journey to become a physician. This is not only a big thing for me, but I know it also is for my island. My aspiration for becoming a physician was stemmed from wanting to give back to my island, which has given so much to me, and serving my people is something I know I will do upon completion of training. This opportunity, which has been provided to me by Imi Ho'ola and its partners, along with the same opportunity they have given numerous other Chamorro physicians, is a testimony of the support that Hawaii has towards providing primary care physicians, not just for Hawaii, but also for the entire Pacific basin.

The Imi Ho'ola Post Baccalaureate Program has given me an opportunity, which I along with others from Guam would not have had otherwise. Do to the challenges that many Pacific islands face, whether socioeconomically or educationally, the Imi Ho'ola Program looks at breaking down that barrier and providing a gateway for individuals that they know will be great physicians and want to serve in their

communities. The benefits and blessings, which I have received on this journey, did not just stop when I was accepted into the program. Upon entrance, I was also provided with a monthly stipend, which was graciously given to my fellow classmates and me by the Queen's Health Systems. These stipends allowed for us to put work aside and focus all our time and energy on completing our training. If it were not for these stipends, it would have made certain barriers harder to get over and there would be less time to focus on learning to be the best primary care physician that we possibly could be. Again, this is another testimony of Hawaii's support and drive to provide great primary care physicians in the places that need it most, like here in the state and the rest of the Pacific.

Lastly, along with the support that I have received from the State of Hawaii and the Imi Ho'ola Program, I know that, soon, I will return to my island of Guam and help change the dynamic of healthcare for the better and be able to assist in providing more healthcare services to a much needed region. And I will be able to passionately serve my rural home and give back to an island that gave so much to me.

Thank you and Si yu'us ma'ase Hawaii!

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hvnlyflower23@yahoo.com](mailto:hvnlyflower23@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 6:42:36 AM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Morales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 1, 2013

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB 665, Hearing on Monday 2/4, 1:15 pm, Conference Room 229

**I offer my strongest support for SB 665:** 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 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** that create diversity in the health care workforce by providing opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or underrepresented populations to succeed in medicine. **Our families and communities greatly benefit from them!**

Mahalo nui loa,

RaeDeen Keahiolalo-Karasuda, PhD

[rbkarasuda@hotmail.com](mailto:rbkarasuda@hotmail.com) or 429-7166

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**Cc:** [Weirathe@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:Weirathe@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 01, 2013 3:37:13 PM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Weirather	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The need for primary care physicians is clear. The bill also supports the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence, which has done an excellent job given its struggle for resources. It's the only one we have. Please support it.

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**Cc:** [Rncuizon@yahoo.com](mailto:Rncuizon@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, February 02, 2013 11:25:46 AM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rena Cuizon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ROBIN E. S. MIYAMOTO, PSY.D.  
677 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD SUITE 904  
HONOLULU, HI 96813  
PHONE: (808) 525-6255 FAX: (808) 525-6256

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 665**  
Relating to Health

February 3, 2013

RE: Testimony in support of SB 665

Honorable Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Robin Miyamoto. I am a Clinical Psychologist and Past-President of Hawai'i Psychological Association. I would like to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 665.

As a founder and the Director of Training of I Ola Lāhui, a non-profit committed to increasing the availability and quality of mental health services available across the State of Hawai'i, particularly rural and underserved areas, I am very familiar shortage of primary care services.

SB 665 would provide important 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 medicine.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of SB 665.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin E. S. Miyamoto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.

From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [HTHTestimony](#)  
Cc: [rodbevmalia@yahoo.com](mailto:rodbevmalia@yahoo.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM  
Date: Sunday, February 03, 2013 7:00:50 AM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/3/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rod vicente	Individual	Support	No

Comments: i am full support of Imi Ho'ola program as a past participant. this program has changed my life. after college working at a shoe store not thinking i was smart enough and strong enough to get into med school, i was encouraged to apply to Imi and even after they started someone dropped out and they called me. my life was never the same since. Imi taught me not only education, but life skills on working hard to achieve life, educational, and career goals. my fellow classmates from all over the pacific basin are my lifelong friends and have been enhanced by our experience. this personal program taught us skills that helped us get over the edge to achieve our goals we thought were unattainable. i didn't even know i had test taking problems of mild dyslexia and scattered thoughts while taking standardized tests and once i had realized my deficiencies, i felt confident, more encouraged, and supported to get into medical school. it made learning fun, easier, and able to focus on the material at hand. Imi has changed me, my life and i am eternally grateful for being given that opportunity. i truly feel without Imi i would not be able to be privileged to be treating and helping children and parents live healthy lives. YES. i am in full support of the Imi Ho'ola program at JABSOM. i think it would be a great dis-service to our communities, especially the under-represented ethnicities that need to be encouraged to achieve higher goals and have role models that were in their disadvantaged footsteps show them, it can and has been done! thank you for you time. rod vicente

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February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
Senate Committee on Health  
RE: SB 665

Dear Senators Green, Baker, Chun-Oakland, Nishihara, and Slom,

My father devoted 50 years of his life as a primary care and county physician in Kealahou-Kona. He is a humble man that never turned a patient away with financial hardships and never shied away from a challenging case. He tells amazing stories from doing pregnancy tests with rabbits in the old days and in recent years doing tracheotomies using ball point pens in emergencies. I have learned over the years primary care is not about financial gains, it is about caring deeply for the community.

In honor of my father's work serving his community, I strongly support **SB 665**: 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 addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion.

The statewide shortage of physicians especially in rural communities greatly concerns me. The Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence and Imi Ho'ola Program are working hard to ensure healthcare for all, especially empowering initiatives to grow our own healers and return to their communities to serve.

Your support SB 665 would allow them to continue their efforts. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,

Sachi Kaulukukui  
skkaulukukui@yahoo.com

Testimony in Support of SB 665

Submitted February 3, 2013

By Sasha Fernandes

I strongly support SB 665: 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 addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion.

We need a diverse healthcare workforce to serve Hawaii's diverse people. Therefore, it is crucial to support funding for the 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program and the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) programs since they are vital to providing opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and people from under-represented communities to succeed in medicine. Many 'Imi Ho'ola graduates, the very students who faced hardships growing up, become leaders and role models in their medical school class. Physicians who are former 'Imi Ho'ola students are from various ethnic backgrounds and most return to their communities to serve in areas where the health crisis is the greatest in Hawai'i. Like many 'Imi Ho'ola students, many Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) students are the first in their family to graduate from college, so their accomplishments inspire their entire family and uplift their community.

The Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) creates pathways out of poverty for Native Hawaiians through opening doors to education and health careers through innovative programs such as the Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine. Without funding, the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) programs will disappear and Native Hawaiians will face more obstacles to entering the healthcare field. Native Hawaiians suffer the worst health in their own homeland, so we need to nurture Native Hawaiian health professionals who are committed to being leaders in improving the health of Native Hawaiians and all peoples of Hawai'i.

My family and friends living in the Neighbor islands and Rural Oahu face a severe shortage of physicians and healthcare workers. Without access to primary care health professionals, people are forced to wait to receive healthcare, and instead, end up with worse illnesses that require expensive Emergency room visits or longer hospitalizations that cost thousands of dollars. If we don't take care of the health of all our people, then our entire State of Hawai'i suffers from economic hardships due to people facing worse illnesses from lack of access to physicians and health professionals.

We must address the health of our people of Hawai'i. I strongly urge you to pass SB 665.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Sasha Fernandes

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**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sherri\\_oteri@yahoo.com](mailto:sherri_oteri@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 01, 2013 3:00:14 PM

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SB665

Submitted on: 2/1/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherri Sanbei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support for Senate Bill 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan. This bill appropriates funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in our State through a comprehensive primary care workforce development plan that addresses the critical areas of loan repayment, diversity programs, and primary care workforce expansion. By creating a pipeline that supports more primary care providers who will serve rural and underserved populations, it gives opportunities for more promising and deserving students to succeed in the competitive field of medicine and is an extremely important initiative in improving health care in these underserved areas.

Sneha L. Sood, MD  
Kapi'olani Medical Specialists and  
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine  
Neonatologist, Newborn Intensive Care Unit  
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children  
1319 Punahou St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
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snehas@kapiolani.org

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health  
on February 4, 2013 by *Steven Gonsalves*

RE: SB 665 Relating to Health

I would like to testify in support for SB 665: Primary Health Care; Primary Workforce Development Plan.

Aloha, thank you for letting me testify today. My Name is Steven Gonsalves and I am a former Imi Ho'ola graduate, and current second year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

I was born and raised on the island of Maui, and I am of Hawaiian-Filipino decent. I come from a single-family household in which my mother was the sole provider for my two siblings and I. I attended Maui High School and graduated in 2002. After graduating, I attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, while also working part time to support myself. I eventually graduated with my Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology several years later. Because of my extended undergraduate career and inability to focus solely on my studies, my initial application to the John A. Burns School of Medicine was denied. My rejection from JABSOM ultimately led to my acceptance into the Imi Ho'ola program.

Imi Ho'ola provided me the chance I needed to prove I was able to perform at the high standards set by the medical school. The program gave me the confidence I needed, and showed me that I have limitless potential, and can achieve any goal I set my mind to. The program educated me about the basic sciences and psychosocial issues found in our communities today, but also thought me "how to be a student" that is able to focus and be accountable for his assignments, exam studies and study schedules. I believe these attributes of accountability and lifelong learning skills that I have acquired from the program have helped me throughout my medical education, and will continue to be the foundation on which my future medical practice is based upon.

I am confident saying that all of my achievements in the Imi Ho'ola program would not be possible without the stipends provided. The stipends played the significant role of financially supporting me while in the Imi Ho'ola program. Throughout the course of Imi Ho'ola's rigorous 12-month program I was unable to work while focusing on passing the demanding course load. The stipend was essential in helping to pay for my rent, supplies, tuition, as well as other basic necessities that I otherwise could have not afforded. It provided the financial "piece of mind" that I needed to further focus on my studies, thus allowing my to excel not only in the program but also at the medical school as well. If it were not for the stipended, I would not have been able to complete the program successfully. I believe that the

stipends and funding provided to the Imi Ho'ola program and it's students are vital to the continued success of the program.

In the future, I hope to become a physician that practices in the state of Hawaii and serves patients in need of my services.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
Senate Committee on Health  
RE: SB 665

Dear Senators Green, Baker, Chun-Oakland, Nishihara, and Slom,

As a Native Hawaiian, I deeply care about healthcare especially in underserved communities. I would like to offer my support for SB 665: 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 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 medicine.

Sincerely,

Todd Kaulukukui  
tkaauwai@yahoo.com

**Monday – February 4, 2013 – 1:15 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**The Senate Committee on Health**

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Strategic Officer

**Re: SB 665 RELATING TO HEALTH- Testimony in Support**

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My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff.

We are writing in **support** of SB 665 which appropriates funds to address the shortage of primary care physicians in the State by making an appropriation for the Hawaii health corps and diversity programs and primary care workforce expansion at the John A. Burns school of medicine.

The physician workforce has been carefully studied, resulting in the documented finding that we now face a significant shortfall of practicing physicians. The study found a current shortage of 600 physicians (more than 20% of our total supply) and an impending shortage of 1,600 physicians by 2020. Hawai'i needs over 200 additional adult primary care providers, notably in rural areas where access to health care is limited. SB 665 is a positive step toward easing the shortage of primary care physicians in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**Cc:** [beautybyyvonne@aol.com](mailto:beautybyyvonne@aol.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM\*  
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SB665

Submitted on: 2/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Perez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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