# SB665 LATE TESTIMONY

To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>
Cc: <u>jjotsuji@hawaii.edu</u>

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM

**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 5:08:40 PM

### **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
Janelle Otsuji	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 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. My name is Janelle Otsuji, and I am a 2012 graduate of the Imi Ho'ola Post Baccalaureate Program, and am currently a first year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. Without this program, my dream of going to medical school would still be just a dream as my MCAT scores suffered only due to my poor testing on the verbal section. Imi Ho'ola gave me an alternative route to being accepted into medical school by putting us through a "medical school bootcamp" type of curriculum. Being that the program required intensive studying, working a full-time/part-time job was impossible. Thus, to help the Imi Ho'ola students, the Department of Native Hawaiian Health was extremely lucky receive funding from the Queen's Health Systems which provided a monthly stipend for each Imi Ho'ola student. This stipend alone helped to diminish financial issues and stress so that we could focus more on studying. Without the funding, completing the program would have been an issue. Without funding we would be full time students with 22 credits a semesters for 1 year without any working income. And for those that come from a financially disadvantaged background, like me, I wouldn't have any money to even eat. Programs like Imi Ho'ola give students from underserved backgrounds a chance to succeed in medical school and who are also committed to serving Hawaii as future physicians.

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

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Comments: 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. My name is Janelle Otsuji, and I am a 2012 graduate of the Imi Ho'ola Post Baccalaureate Program, and am currently a first year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. Without this program, my dream of going to medical school would still be just a dream as my MCAT scores suffered only due to my poor testing on the verbal section. Imi Ho'ola gave me an alternative route to being accepted into medical school by putting us through a "medical school bootcamp" type of curriculum. Being that the program required intensive studying, working a full-time/part-time job was impossible. Thus, to help the Imi Ho'ola students, the Department of Native Hawaiian Health was extremely lucky receive funding from the Queen's Health Systems which provided a monthly stipend for each Imi Ho'ola student. This stipend alone helped to diminish financial issues and stress so that we could focus more on studying. Without the funding, completing the program would have been an issue. Without funding we would be full time students with 22 credits a semesters for 1 year without any working income. And for those that come from a financially disadvantaged background, like me, I wouldn't have any money to even eat. Programs like Imi Ho'ola give students from underserved backgrounds a chance to succeed in medical school and who are also committed to serving Hawaii as future physicians.

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To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>
Cc: <u>jandaya@hawaii.edu</u>

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM

**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:37:36 PM

### **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
January May Andaya	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am an Imi Hoʻōla graduate (class of 2011-2012), and currently a first year Medical student. 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 Hoʻōla 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 program has given me the opportunity to strengthen my critical thinking skills and science knowledge base that we will help me excel as a medical student and later as a physician. I am so thankful for the program and the Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence.

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To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>

Cc: <u>ileanahaunani@gmail.com</u>

**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM

**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 4:57:41 PM

## **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
lleana H Ruelas	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. Mahalo nui, Ileana

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To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>

Cc: <u>kevinakiyama@gmail.com</u>

**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM

**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 5:01:57 PM

### **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
Kevin Akiyama	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.

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To: <u>HTHTestimony</u>
Cc: <u>lynniwam@hotmail.com</u>

**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB665 on Feb 4, 2013 13:15PM

**Date:** Sunday, February 03, 2013 3:30:08 PM

# **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
Lynn Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 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.

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