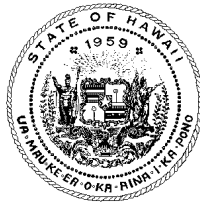


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Shawn Tsuha
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 2058 SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1
A BILL RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS
LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February, 25, 2014, 9:20 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** SB 2058 SD1. The Women's Community Correctional Center and the Halawa Correctional Facility are federal designated health professional shortage areas. PSD's inmates are also considered a medically underserved population. As such, the Hawaii Health Corps Loan Repayment Program has provided loan repayment funding for a recently hired psychiatrist. This additional financial support provided the incentive for the psychiatrist to accept the PSD position.

Recruiting and retaining qualified health professionals to work in the challenging PSD environment has been problematic. The ability to offer additional financial benefits

and recognition through this Loan Repayment Program have greatly enhanced PSD's and other health professional shortage areas' recruitment efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dand@punahealth.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2058 on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 8:15:13 AM

SB2058

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Domizio	Puna Community Med Ctr	Support	No

Comments: It is essential that we make practicing in Hawai'i as attractive and affordable as possible; this is especially true in rural and underserved areas. Please continue this vital program. Dan Domizio PA/MPH Clinical Programs Director.

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"Health care that is safe, health care that works, and health care that leaves no one behind"

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2014
TIME: 9:20 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Howard Ainsley
East Hawaii Regional CEO
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On Behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems corporation (HHSC), thank you, Chairman Ige and Vice Chari Kidani for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 2058, SD 1, Relating to the Hawaii Health Corp Loan Repayment Program.

I hereby recognize that many residents of Hawaii are increasingly unable to obtain timely and appropriate health care due to shortages of primary health care providers in the state. Furthermore, the number of family practice physicians is expected to decrease which will have a devastating impact in rural areas with medically underserved populations.

I support the purpose of this act to provide loan repayment for physicians, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social workers who agree to work in a federally designate health professions shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

I hereby strongly urge your support for SB 2058, SD 1.

Howard N. Ainsley
East Hawaii Regional CEO
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2014
TIME: 9:20 am
PLACE: Conference Room 211

TO: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senatory Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Walton Shim, MD, President
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Ron Kienitz, DO, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: SB 2058

Position: Strongly Support

The Hawaii Medical Association is submitting testimony in strong support of this measure.

This measure makes an appropriation for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii health corps loan repayment program.

Overwhelming amounts of medical school debt are a huge reason that many medical students do not return to Hawaii to practice. Physicians can make 3-4 times as much money working on the mainland.

This measure works to improve the chance that young doctors will practice in Hawaii by establishing a student loan repayment program. We commend this effort!

HMA believes that increasing the potential pool of physicians and other health care providers is an important step forward in addressing Hawaii's worsening catastrophic shortage of health care providers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Officers

*President - Walton Shim, MD President-Elect – Robert Sloan
Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD Immediate Past President – Stephen Kemble, MD
Treasurer – Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO*



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

LATE

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2058 SD1
Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corp Loan Repayment Program
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
February 25, 2014, 9:20 am, Room 211

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2058 SD1, making an appropriation for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Loan Repayment Program.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

Senate Bill 2058 SD1 speaks to two of these major determinants by seeking to alleviate the shortage of primary care providers and improve access to care across the state. For that reason, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ihwang@koolauloachc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2058 on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 12:07:53 PM

SB2058

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Irene Hwang	Koolauloa Health Center	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing to offer my strongest support for SB2058. Research has shown that Hawaii has a severe shortage of healthcare providers, especially in rural areas and primary care. Therefore we must recruit and retain more primary care providers. Loan repayment is one of the best ways of doing this. In 2011, the UH John. A. Buns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still working in underserved areas. The private and federal grant funds end 8/31/2014, however the matching federal funds are still available. Therefore every dollar allocated by state funds will be matched by the federal government and will allow for this program to continue. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that we can continue and EXPAND this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: aahhooraa@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2058 on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 7:58:31 AM

SB2058

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ahoora Payam	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to offer my support for SB2058. Research has shown that Hawaii has a severe shortage of healthcare providers, especially in rural areas and primary care. Therefore we must recruit and retain more primary care providers. Loan repayment is one of the best ways of doing this. In 2011, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still working in underserved areas. The private and federal grant funds end 8/31/2014, however the matching federal funds are still available. Therefore every dollar allocated by state funds will be matched by the federal government and will allow for this program to continue. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that we can continue and EXPAND this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: heihachi29@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2058 on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 4:49:13 PM

SB2058

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Turlington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to offer my strongest support for SB2058. Research has shown that Hawaii has a severe shortage of healthcare providers, especially in rural areas and primary care. Therefore we must recruit and retain more primary care providers. Loan repayment is one of the best ways of doing this. In 2011, the UH John. A. Buns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still working in underserved areas. I am one of the recipients and can personally attest that this funding has made it possible for me to continue working in an underserved community. The low salary afforded by such a position would otherwise make it difficult for my family to pay off my loans and other expenses. The private and federal grant funds end 8/31/2014 for this program, however the matching federal funds are still available. Therefore every dollar allocated by state funds will be matched by the federal government and will allow for this program to continue. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that we can continue and EXPAND this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: reyesjen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2058 on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 8:25:14 PM

SB2058

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Reyes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2058 to Hawaii State Senate Ways and Means Committee 2/25/2014 I am writing to offer my strongest support for SB2058. Research has shown that Hawaii has a severe shortage of healthcare providers, especially in rural areas and primary care. Therefore we must recruit and retain more primary care providers. Loan repayment is one of the best ways of doing this. In 2011, the UH John. A. Buns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still working in underserved areas. The private and federal grant funds end 8/31/2014, however the matching federal funds are still available. Therefore every dollar allocated by state funds will be matched by the federal government and will allow for this program to continue. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that we can continue and EXPAND this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hedgesew@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2058 on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 1:03:40 PM

SB2058

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerris Hedges	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am submitting support for SB 2058. Over the last 5 years, the John A. Burns School of Medicine has demonstrated that Hawaii has a severe shortage of practicing healthcare providers. Indeed, only about half of the currently licensed physicians are actively seeing patients. This shortage is proportionately greater for rural areas and in primary care. Therefore we must recruit and retain more practicing primary care providers. Loan repayment for recently trained practitioners is one of the best ways of doing this. In 2011, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program in conjunction with the Hawaii Medical Education Council. Using private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare with matching funds from the federal government, this loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still practicing in under-served areas. The private and federal grant funds end 8/31/2014, however the matching federal funds are still available. Therefore every dollar allocated by state funds will be matched by the federal government and will allow for this program to continue. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that the School of Medicine can continue to EXPAND this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Jerris R. Hedges, MD Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a primary care physician at the Queen Emma Clinics (QEC). QEC, located at Queen's Medical Center, primarily takes care of patients who lack medical insurance (i.e. the patients have Quest insurance or Medicare). Almost our entire patient population at QEC is underserved. Because QEC is located at Queen's Medical Center, which is in a geographically dense area, it is not given federal status as an underserved area. As a primary care physician, with significant student loans still to pay, designating Queen Emma Clinics as an underserved area within the state, and thus be eligible for the state loan repayment program, would significantly . Furthermore, as a UHIMRP residency advisor and attending physician, it may help sway more residents to partake in primary care, and practice in underserved and/or rural areas. Adding sites for loan repayment would help ameliorate the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai'i, particularly in primary care.

I am writing to offer support for **SB2058**. In 2011, the John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens Medical Center and AlohaCare, as well as matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still working in underserved areas. The private and federal grant funds end 8/31/2014; however, the matching federal funds are still available. Each dollar allocated by state funds will be matched by the federal government. This program has been of great benefit to primary care providers in underserved areas, and to the state in general. Please continue to provide these funds for this valuable program. Also, please consider expanding these funds to other areas, including the Queen Emma Clinics. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John Misailidis, MD

Attending Physician, Queen Emma Clinics

Assistant Professor, JABSOM

Firm Advisor, JABSOM

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
571 Kaimalino St.
Kailua, HI 96734

Written Testimony in Support of SB2058
For Senate Ways and Means Committee 2/25/2014

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB2058**. As President of the Hawaii State Rural Health Association, Director of the Area Health Education Center, a physician workforce researcher, and the Principal Investigator of the federal State Loan Repayment Program grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for working to increase the number of primary care and behavioral health providers caring for patients in the underserved areas of Hawaii.

My research has shown that Hawaii has 700 fewer physicians, 200 fewer nurse practitioners and 100 fewer physician assistants than a comparable population on the mainland US. The shortage is most severe in rural areas such as Hawaii Island, and the shortage is equally split between primary care and specialty. This significant shortage indicates that we must recruit and retain more primary care providers. Loan repayment is one of the most effective methods for doing this.

In 2011, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 16 individuals. The individuals funded are from all the islands except Kauai (so far, but we hope to change that). Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight FNPs and one Geriatric/Adult NP) and seven are physicians (two family physicians, two pediatricians, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist). The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with one provider working at the Halawa Correctional System and one provider working in the Native Hawaiian Healthcare System. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

The federal matching funds (dollar for dollar match) are still available and if we have State funding, we can apply for those funds. I am happy to write such a grant as I did two years ago. We are also working with the health centers and medical school to raise private funds, but we need State funds for this program to continue. With the combined funds, we can make the Hawaii Health Corps a strong and meaningful contribution to healthcare in Hawaii. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that we can continue this valuable program.

Thanks, and I'm happy to answer any questions. Kelley Withy 808-429-8712

Malia Ribeiro MSN, APHN, FNP-C, APRN
3233 Huelani Dr. Unit A Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 386-2542 malia.ribeiro@gmail.com

I am writing to offer my strongest support SB2058. My name is Malia Ribeiro APRN I am a family nurse practitioner working at a women's and children's homeless shelter in Kalihi providing primary care. Although I am not receiving the Hawaii State loan repayment, I can attest that finding and retaining primary care providers to work with underserved communities is difficult in Hawaii. The clinic I work at has had multiple providers before I came on two years ago. The lack of continuity of care for this vulnerable population has negative effects from both a health and economic perspective. It is well known that if patients are connected to and have adequate access to a primary care provider they are less likely to utilize emergency departments. Through building relationships with patients I can see the rates of ED visits decline in my own practice as patients know they can easily reach out to me to obtain care.

Unfortunately, research has shown that Hawaii has a severe shortage of primary healthcare providers, especially in rural and underserved urban areas. Without enough providers, the people of Hawaii have trouble accessing necessary healthcare. Therefore we must recruit and retain more primary care providers. Loan repayment is one of the best ways of doing this. In 2011, the UH John. A. Buns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still working in underserved areas. The matching federal funds are still available, but state funds must be allocated for the match in order to receive these funds. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that we can continue and EXPAND this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Malia Ribeiro APRN

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2058 to
Hawaii State Senate Ways and Means Committee
2/25/2014

Dear Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kidani,

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB2058**. Research has shown that Hawaii has a severe shortage of healthcare providers, especially in rural areas and primary care. Therefore we must recruit and retain more primary care providers. Loan repayment is one of the best ways of doing this. In 2011, the UH John. A. Buns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year of educational debt for 16 individuals who are still working in underserved areas. The private and federal grant funds end 8/31/2014, however the matching federal funds are still available. Therefore every dollar allocated by state funds will be matched by the federal government and will allow for this program to continue. I applaud your efforts to secure these funds so that we can continue and EXPAND this valuable program.

As a practicing physician in Hawaii for 20 years, one of the biggest concerns of my patients is access to health care professionals. Among the many barriers to recruiting and retaining providers in the Islands, this program stands out as a direct pathway to keeping our highly trained primary care providers here.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Shaun Berry MD