



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 3091
Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corp Primary Care Training Program
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
February 19, 2014, 9:15 am, Room 211

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 3091, making an appropriation for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training 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 3091 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.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 19, 2014
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Re: SB3091 Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of this Committee:

My name is Vivian Landrum, and I am the President/CEO of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC). KKCC represents over 525 business members and is the leading business advocacy organization on the west side of Hawai'i Island. KKCC also actively works to enhance the environment, unique lifestyle and quality of life in West Hawai'i for both residents and visitors alike.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce strongly supports SB 3091.

The shortage of physicians on Hawaii Island has been documented and discussed for the past eleven years. As noted in several reports from the North Hawaii Outcomes Project as well as the Hawaii County Community Health Profile, the health of the people of Hawaii County is consistently worse than the state average. Factors attributing to this include genetics, social and economic conditions, health related behaviors and **access to healthcare**. Increasing the healthcare workforce was cited as one requirement to improve the health of Hawaii Island's people.

The HHSC Primary Care Training Program could help stem the current and projected shortage by increasing the chances for additional physicians on Hawaii Island as it is documented that many residents choose to remain where they are trained. This could have a positive domino effect as new physicians will require staff, thus supporting job growth as well.

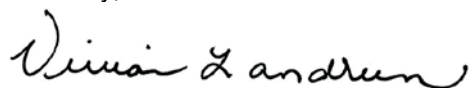
The physician shortage also impacts hiring challenges for employers. Members of this Chamber have reported even though they have health care plans for their employees; new employees are struggling to find physicians who will take on new patients. Current practicing physicians are already over burdened and reluctant to bring on new clients. Qualified workforce candidates are therefore reluctant to upgrade to a new job if the change means a change in health care provider.

The Primary Care Training Program has the potential to impact Hawai'i Island via a multitude of positive outcomes. More primary care providers will decrease unnecessary hospital visits, increase ability to treat debilitating diseases and lower costs, are just a few to add to the list.

Hawaii Island is experiencing a gradual recovery from the past few years of economic turmoil. The appropriation of funding for a Primary Care Training Program is an action that is greatly needed for this Island now and for the future. I urge you to support SB 3091.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Vivian Landrum
President/CEO

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: djr@teamdeluz.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3091 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 1:48:13 PM

SB3091

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David S. De Luz, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support of SB 3091 Relating To The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program. Appropriates funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center David S. De Luz, Jr. David S. De Luz, Sr. Enterprises, Inc. 808-895-4284 email: djr@teamdeluz.com I, as well as our organization, STRONGLY supports this program that invests in training family practice residents who will eventually work in rural communities through out the state AND have a higher probability in continuing their practice in our community which will address or SEVER shortage of physicians. I/We endorse the HHSCPCTP as one of the ways to provide more primary care physicians that will hopefully: 1. Decrease the number and rate of “potentially avoidable hospitalizations,” which the state now pays for through both its Medicaid program and unreimbursed care by state’s public hospital system, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. 2. Provide greater access to family medicine physicians in rural area of our state, lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions. For example, diabetes and coronary heart disease have reached epidemic proportions in Hawaii County compared to Oahu and other areas of the state where there is greater access to primary care. We recognize that the HHSCPCTP uses a model of care delivery that eliminates the need to train or attract unrealistically high numbers of physicians. The team model of care in which the HHSCPCTP is training Hawaii’s future providers allows one physician and their team to care for up to 10,000 patients. Critical team components include a nurse practitioner or physician assistant and specialists in chronic disease management such as pharmacists, certified diabetes educators, behavioral health providers, licensed nurses, and well trained non-licensed staff. We are aware from personal experience that residents trained at rural sites stay and practice in this setting after they completed their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists. This legislation will make a significant impact in the rural communities throughout the state with this TEAM approach in community health. I/we STRONGLY urge you to pass SB 3091. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3091.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jimkennedy@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3091 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:45:36 AM



SB3091

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James R. Kennedy	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THIS CRITICAL PROGRAM This program is essential to meeting basic health needs on Hawai'i Island. We simply don't have enough physicians to meet basic health care requirements. My family experienced this first hand a while back, when our long-time family physician had to leave practice due to an illness. We discovered that we could not find another physician who was accepting new patients! This was not a matter of insurance, we had an excellent plan through the observatory, or the ability to pay our share, we can afford that. There just weren't any local physicians who had time to cover new patients. So, for more than a year, our "doctor" was an urgent care center or the HMC ER, until our name came up on a waiting list. The Primary Care Training Program is a practical and key element in establishing a workable solution. In the immediate present, the program's clinic provides access to care for those who are still "out in the cold". In the longer term, it provides an opportunity for young new doctors to experience Island living in a rural community, and unquestionably will lead to an ongoing source of new physicians choosing to continue serving our communities here after they complete the program. PLEASE support this program! James R. Kennedy, PhD

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

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: Wednesday, February 19, 2014
TIME: 9:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Support of SB 3091

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation – Primary Care Training Program
Judith Fox-Goldstein, President
Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce (HICC)

As the President of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce (HICC), and representing our over 250 member businesses and an estimated 600+ individual members, I am proud to declare our full support of the HHSC Primary Care Training Program (HHSCPCTP).

Support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will generate greater numbers of providers practicing throughout the islands. The HICC endorses the HHSCPCTP as a Means of Closing the Provider Gap in Hawaii.

Investing in training family practice residents in the neighbor islands is expected to yield a meaningful return on investment.

- Increasing the number of family practice physicians is expected to decrease the number and rate of “potentially avoidable hospitalizations,” which the state now pays for through both its Medicaid program and unreimbursed care by state’s public hospital system, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.
- In rural areas of the state the impact of the Residency Program and greater access to family medicine physicians is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions. For example, diabetes and coronary heart disease have reached epidemic proportions in Hawaii County compared to Oahu and other areas of the state where there is greater access to primary care.
- The known economic multiplier effect of additional physicians in Hawaii means each additional physician is expected to generate 5 new jobs and new tax revenue. (Source: The Lewin Group).

HICC recognizes that the HHSCPCTP uses an advanced model of care delivery that eliminates the need to train or attract unrealistically high numbers of physicians. The current predominant model of care throughout the country involves one primary care physician caring for 2,000-2,500 individuals with a small staff, usually including a medical assistant and receptionist. The team model of care in which the HHSCPCTP is training Hawaii’s future providers allows one physician and their team to care for up to 10,000 patients. Critical team components include a nurse practitioner or physician assistant and specialists in chronic disease management such as pharmacists, certified diabetes educators, behavioral health providers, licensed nurses, and well trained non-licensed staff.

We recognize that it is well documented throughout the nation that physicians attending rural training programs are much more likely to practice in a rural area. More than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice in this setting after they completed their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

We thank you, Chairman Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee members, for your foresight in supporting this measure. This legislation will make a significant impact in the rural communities throughout the neighbor islands due to this new paradigm of a TEAM approach in community health.

HICC strongly urges your support in appropriating \$2.8 million for SB 3091 and have it included as a budgetary line item in the Hawaii State Budget of HHSC.

HICC urges you to pass SB 3091. Thank you.