
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SPECIAL FUND.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many residents of
2 Hawaii are increasingly unable to obtain timely and appropriate
3 health care due to the shortage of primary health care providers
4 in the State. These shortages threaten the health of Hawaii's
5 residents, particularly those on the neighbor islands and in
6 rural communities, and affect state health care costs. The
7 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine's
8 physician workforce assessment is a valuable tool which provides
9 ongoing assessment and planning of the physician workforce in
10 Hawaii. Based on the data provided through the workforce
11 assessment, the John A. Burns school of medicine educates and
12 trains physicians in primary care and other needed specialties.

13 The legislature further finds that the cost of education
14 for health care professionals continues to increase. Health
15 care professionals with high levels of student loan debt may
16 therefore seek out higher income specialties to better afford to
17 repay these loans. However, these higher incomes are usually in



1 specialty care in urban areas, rather than in medically
2 underserved or rural areas of the State. The Hawaii state loan
3 repayment program, which was started with private donations and
4 matching federal funding, gives primary health care providers an
5 incentive to provide care at designated health professional
6 shortage areas in Hawaii in order to receive assistance with
7 repayment of educational loan debt.

8 The legislature additionally finds that the John A. Burns
9 school of medicine special fund is permitted to receive funding
10 from a variety of sources. Expanding the purpose of the John A.
11 Burns school of medicine special fund to encompass loan
12 repayment for health care professionals would enable the special
13 fund to accept moneys that may be applied toward the loan
14 repayment program, in addition to the special fund's existing
15 support of physician workforce assessment and planning.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to enable the
17 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine to
18 continue to evaluate Hawaii's health care needs, graduate new
19 physicians, and accept and disburse funds toward health care
20 student loan repayment by:



- 1 (1) Permitting moneys in the John A. Burns school of
2 medicine special fund to be used for loan repayment
3 for certain health care professionals and removing the
4 cap on expenditures from the special fund; and
- 5 (2) Making permanent the physician workforce assessment
6 fee and related requirements for use of moneys in the
7 John A. Burns school of medicine special fund.

8 SECTION 2. Section 304A-2171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

10 "(c) Moneys in the special fund shall be used to support
11 the John A. Burns school of medicine's activities related to
12 physician workforce assessment and planning within Hawaii[+] and
13 loan repayment for certain healthcare professionals; provided
14 that of the physician workforce assessment fees transferred and
15 deposited into the special fund pursuant to section 453-8.8, no
16 less than fifty per cent of the total amount of assessment fees
17 deposited shall be used for purposes identified by the Hawaii
18 medical education council to support physician workforce
19 assessment and planning efforts, including the recruitment and
20 retention of physicians, for rural and medically underserved
21 areas of the State[+] ~~provided further that expenditures from the~~



1 ~~special fund shall be limited to no more than \$245,000~~
2 ~~annually]~~. This shall include but not be limited to maintaining
3 accurate physician workforce assessment information and
4 providing or updating personal and professional information,
5 ~~[that]~~ which shall be maintained in a secure database. The John
6 A. Burns school of medicine may disclose information specific to
7 any physician only with the express written consent of that
8 physician."

9 SECTION 3. Act 18, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, as
10 amended by Act 186, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is amended by
11 amending section 9 to read as follows:

12 "SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009 [~~+~~
13 ~~provided that sections 3 and 4 shall be repealed on June 30,~~
14 ~~2017]~~."

15 SECTION 4. Act 186, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is
16 amended by amending section 5 to read as follows:

17 "SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2012 [~~+~~
18 ~~provided that section 1 shall be repealed on June 30, 2017, and~~
19 ~~section 304A 2171(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be~~
20 ~~reenacted in the form in which it read on June 28, 2012]~~."



H.B. NO. 1949

1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
4

INTRODUCED BY: Allen A. Bellotti
Brian Kobayashi
Richard King
AM

JAN 22 2016



H.B. NO. 1949

Report Title:

John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund; Loan Repayment;
Physician Workforce Assessment; Fee

Description:

Permits moneys in the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund to be used for loan repayment for certain health care professionals. Removes the cap on expenditures from the special fund. Removes the sunset date from the physician workforce assessment fee and related requirements for use of moneys in the John A. Burns school of medicine special fund.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



Written Testimony in Support of HB1949

My name is Dr. Shaun Berry and I have been practicing medicine in Hawaii since 1994. I have seen the health care climate become worse and worse for primary care physicians in the islands. I am writing to offer my strongest support for **HB1949**. Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place. The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawaii, has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho`okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawaii Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, provide continuing education to over 2,000 providers, and begin a State Loan Repayment Program. Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, 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 19 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), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. 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. In September, 2014, Dr. Kelley Withy at John A. Burns School of Medicine has received a 4 year grant for \$311,875 a year in federal funds to be spent on loan repayment in Hawaii for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers and marriage and family counselors who work in non-profit settings in Health Profession Shortage Areas. BUT the money can only be spent if there is local funding to match it (dollar for dollar). She has only been able to match \$100,000 of the funds, so over \$200,000 went unused and the federal government decreased the award to \$225,000 a year.

HB1949 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Sincerely, Shaun Berry MD

ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 11:05 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: jmisailidis@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1949 on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM

HB1949

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: I am writing to offer my strongest support for HB1949. Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place. The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawaii, has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho`okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawaii Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, provide continuing education to over 2,000 providers, and begin a State Loan Repayment Program. Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, 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 19 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 FNP's and one Geriatric/Adult NP), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. 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. In September, 2014, Dr. Kelley Withy at John A. Burns School of Medicine has received a 4 year grant for \$311,875 a year in federal funds to be spent on loan repayment in Hawaii for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers and marriage and family counselors who work in non-profit settings in Health Profession Shortage Areas. BUT the money can only be spent if there is local funding to match it (dollar for dollar). She has only been able to match \$100,000 of the funds, so over \$200,000 went unused and the federal government decreased the award to \$225,000 a year. HB1949 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match. Mahalo for your attention to this important issue! Dr. John Misailidis Queen Emma Clinics

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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ichiyama2-Brandon

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:28 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mollyw.palmer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1949 on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM

HB1949

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HED on Feb 4, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Palmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to offer my strongest support for HB1949. I am a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (APRN-Rx) working for a non-profit mental health organization called Mental Health Kokua on Maui that serves the most underserved population across the islands. This non-profit struggles every day with funding, and cannot afford to offer loan repayment to their providers or even offer competitive salary packages. As a result, they often lose good providers to other agencies that can offer more incentives. The state needs to help providers pay off their high interest student loans, especially those of us who work at underserved sites or non-profits who don't have the funds to help them. We need more healthcare providers in Hawaii. Why are we making it difficult for them to get here?

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Written Testimony in Support of HB1949

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **HB1949**. Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place. The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawaii, has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho`okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawaii Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, provide continuing education to over 2,000 providers, and begin a State Loan Repayment Program.

Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, 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 19 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), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. 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.

In September, 2014, Dr. Kelley Withy at John A. Burns School of Medicine has received a 4 year grant for \$311,875 a year in federal funds to be spent on loan repayment in Hawaii for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers and marriage and family counselors who work in non-profit settings in Health Profession Shortage Areas. BUT the money can only be spent if there is local funding to match it (dollar for dollar). She has only been able to match \$100,000 of the funds, so over \$200,000 went unused and the federal government decreased the award to \$225,000 a year.

HB1949 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

Sincerely, Malia Ribeiro DNP, APRN, FNP-C

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

Written Testimony in Support of HB1949

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **HB1949**. Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place. The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawaii, has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho`okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawaii Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, listing all physician job openings on ahcc.hawaii.edu, publishing articles describing the workforce in Hawaii, presenting the information across Hawaii, providing continuing education to over 2,000 providers to update them on healthcare changes in the US, beginning a State Loan Repayment Program, and supporting a distance learning program for rural providers called Project ECHO.

HB1949 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities described above, as well as raise the spending cap so that any money raised, appropriated or donated can be used to expand loan repayment to primary and behavioral health providers working in underserved areas. Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, 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 19 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), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. 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.

Your support of this bill will allow the physician workforce assessment activities to continue, as well as set the ground work for expanding the State Loan Repayment program to expand to provide a much larger impact on underserved areas by recruiting needed healthcare providers.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Robert Bley Vroman, Chancellor
and
Jerris Hedges, MD,
Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1949 – RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SPECIAL FUND

Aloha Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to voice our strong support for House Bill 1949.

Hawai'i has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawai'i will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place.

The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawai'i, and also has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho'okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawai'i Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, provide continuing education to over 2,000 providers, and begin a State Loan Repayment Program.

Current Status of Loan Repayment

Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queen's 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 19 individuals.** The individuals funded are from all the islands except Kaua'i (so far, but we hope to change that). Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight FNPs and one Geriatric/Adult NP), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. 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.

Federal Loan Matching Money Left on the Table

In September 2014, Dr. Kelley Withy at JABSOM received a 4-year grant for \$311,875 a year in federal funds to be spent on loan repayment in Hawai'i for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers and marriage and family counselors who work in non-profit settings in Health Profession Shortage Areas. But the federal funds can ONLY be spent if there is local funding to match it (dollar for dollar).

Dr. Withy has been able to match \$100,000 of the funds. But more than \$200,000 went unused and the federal government decreased the award to \$225,000 a year. HB 1949 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar-for-dollar match.


Mahalo for your attention to this important issue.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

LATE

To: The Honorable Issac W. Choy, Chair, Committee on Higher Education
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Members, Committee on Higher Education

From:  Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 4, 2016

Hrg: House Committee on Higher Education Hearing; Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 2:00pm
in Room 309

Re: **Support for HB 1949, Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund**

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my strong support for HB 1949, which would provide funding for a loan repayment program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for certain health care professionals.

At QHS, we support our local students and graduates who would like to live and work in Hawaii through internship and residency programs. We have also provided financial support for loan repayment programs at JABSOM. It is evident that the high cost of living in Hawaii, coupled with the prospect of having to pay back student loans, creates a real barrier for students who may be interested in pursuing a career in rural or medically underserved areas of the state. Providing financial assistance to students interested in that type of career is one way that we can start to address this issue.

This legislation shows a commitment to and investment in our local students and communities. Loan repayment programs will support efforts to fill in gaps in the state's healthcare workforce and will also benefit our underserved communities.

Thank you for your time and attention. We ask for your support on this important measure.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

Written Testimony in Support of HB1949

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **HB1949**. As you know, Hawaii has a shortage of primary care and behavioral health providers, as well as many types of specialists. Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program that has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. Initially, mental health workers were not eligible, so as a psychologist, I was ecstatic to hear that I am now eligible to apply.

I began working at Lana'i Community Health Center in 2012 as the only licensed psychologist on the island, and the first psychologist to ever agree to live on the island. I originally had hopes of securing loan repayment through the federal government, but due to the small population size, we are not viable candidates. I honestly love working there, but it has major challenges. In 2014, I got to experience the difficulties firsthand of being a patient with a serious illness living on Lana'i, as I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Having to fly regularly to Oahu or Maui for my appointments, not having immediate family nearby, and having to live in a hotel during the recovery from surgery took quite a toll, emotionally, physically, and financially. The following year, I left Lana'i to pursue some other "bucket-list" dreams, including getting married and spending time living in West Africa. I have stayed connected to Lana'i Community Health Center, working remotely part-time, supervising the unlicensed post doctoral psychologist I left behind, and working on a grant, partly because my heart still resides on Lana'i and partly because there was no one else to do it. After a year of searching for my replacement, there is still no one to take my place. So out of both love and need, I will be returning to Lana'i to work full time as a psychologist at the community health center.

Funding this program would mean so much to me, and to my patients on Lana'i, as it means I could return to a place I am needed and that I love, without the financial burden of student loan repayments, in addition to the other obstacles of living on Hawaii's most expensive and isolated island. It would mean that in the future, other providers like myself will have an incentive to forego what many of you reading this would have difficulty letting go of to live in such an isolated place—like adequate and available housing, diverse job availability, shopping malls, affordable groceries, and places to go. It means that one day, if I get out of debt, I may be able to purchase my own home instead of getting on the long housing waitlist to live in a studio apartment, while in the meantime, house-surfing at various benevolent friend's homes.

I truly hope you will support the health and well being of our small communities by funding HB1949! Mahalo for your time and attention to this important issue!

Sincerely yours,

Serenity Chambers, PhD, Licensed Psychologist, Lana'i Community Health Center

LATE

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Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

Aileen Duran