



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

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16 March 2015

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Miles Yoshioka

**2014-2015 Board**

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Carol VanCamp

William Walter  
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Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2015  
Time: 1:15PM  
Place: Conference Room 414, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Chuck Erskine and I am the President of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce (HICC). HICC was founded in 1898, and has been a part of our island's business community for nearly 120 years. HICC has over 270 member businesses and represents nearly 630 individuals. The Chamber serves as an important voice of business in Hawai'i, and we **strongly support** the strengthening of the state's provider workforce through the HHSC Primary Care Training Program (HHSCPCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will generate greater numbers of providers practicing throughout the islands. **We** Endorse 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).

**We** recognize that the HHSCPCTP uses an advanced model of care delivery that



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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 Hawai'i'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 urge you to pass SB 847.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chuck Erskine



75-5737 Kuakini Hwy. Suite 208  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 329-1758 Fax: 329-8564  
www.Kona-Kohala.com info@kona-kohala.com

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health  
Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

Re: HB847 HD1 Relating to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; Primary Care Training Program;  
Appropriation

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of this Committee:

My name is Tracey Fosso, and I am the Board Chair of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC). KKCC represents over 500 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 HB847 HD1.

The shortage of physicians on Hawaii Island has been documented and discussed for the past twelve 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.

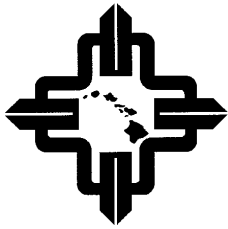
Hawaii Island is in desperate need of more health care providers. The appropriation of funding for a Primary Care Training Program is an action that is greatly needed for this Island now and for the future. I urge you to support HB847 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tracey Fosso'.

Tracey Fosso  
Board Chair



## **HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**

C O R P O R A T I O N

*Quality Healthcare For All*

**Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair**

March 18, 2015  
Conference Room 414  
1:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 847, HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.**

**Addresses primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation primary care training program at Hilo Medical Center.**

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) fully supports HB 847, HD1, to appropriate funds to implement and sustain our primary care training program. This program will be based at the Hilo Medical Center and will support primary care training throughout the State.

The purpose of the program is to recruit, train, and retain family practice physicians and primary care teams to meet the State-wide shortages. Primary care physicians and family practice physicians, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists and others are integral to the delivery of quality care in Hawaii. As they promote healthy lifestyles and identify and treat chronic and acute conditions, like severe flu and pneumonia, they are the front-line in supporting the delivery of quality care in any health care system. They prevent more serious illnesses, which are costly and much more difficult to manage. Primary care is the foundation of any efficient health care system.

The recruitment and retention of physicians, advanced practice nurses and support teams in Hawaii's rural areas is an on-going challenge. An interdisciplinary residency program is not a panacea to our recruitment problem. However, it is an important step toward in alleviating our physician and nursing shortages. We respectfully request funds to support the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this measure.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lrantz@hhsc.org](mailto:lrantz@hhsc.org)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 12:43:17 PM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Rantz	Hilo Medical Center Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dnishioka@cuhawaii.com](mailto:dnishioka@cuhawaii.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:13:18 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darren Nishioka	JCCIH	Support	No

Comments:

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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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Marilyn Harris, Administrator of Ka'u Hospital, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center. As administrator of Ka'u Hospital and its rural health clinic, I know firsthand the challenges of trying to recruit primary care physicians in isolated communities like ours. The lack of adequate access to primary care disproportionately affects people living in rural communities who may not be able to travel the distances required to seek care elsewhere.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and

takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.



# HAWAII ISLAND HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

Dear Legislators:

March 17, 2015

**Support for:** Hilo Medical Center Primary Care Residency Program, HB 847 HD1

I am writing on behalf of the *Hawaii Island Healthcare Alliance* in support of the **Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center on Hawaii Island**. We respectfully ask for your support for the states continued investment in healthy citizens through improving access to primary care providers for the citizens and visitors to Hawaii Island and Hawaii State. Data is clear nationally and in Hawaii that physicians generally practice where they do their Residency Training. This is why the most important intervention to assure access to care is to assure sustainability of the Residency Program in Hilo.

The Hawaii Island Healthcare Alliance and its numerous community partners are grateful for previous statewide support for the Primary Care Residency Program in Hilo.

The shortage of providers in our state, especially on Hawaii Island and the neighbor islands, has been well documented and is a major reason for the significantly poorer health outcomes on the neighbor islands. The shortage of providers is the biggest barrier to access to primary care and contributes to higher costs because of higher utilization of expensive emergency room and hospital settings for both diagnosis and treatment.

With previous state contributions, in addition to substantial private funding, the Primary Care Training Program has been able to:

- Develop a locally respected healthcare clinic,
- Recruit a high quality faculty, begin training students from several healthcare fields,
- Obtain national accreditation for training family practice residents,
- Begin training the first class of the family practice residents on July 1, 2014.
- Recruit a highly qualified second class of residents to start on July 1, 2015

The achievement of these milestones demonstrates that the expectations of the initial state funding for this program have been well met and the program is well positioned to achieve its goals. However, continued success of the program is contingent on continued sufficient funding **for the start-up years**, (a universal challenge for new residency programs) until it is sustainable on its own, which is expected.

We respectfully request your support for the Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center on Hawaii Island.

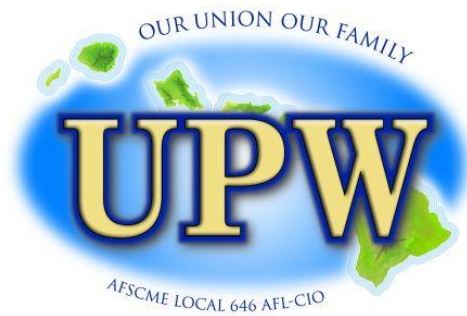
Sincerely,



Sharon Vitousek MD

Chair, Hawaii Island Healthcare Alliance

**Vision:** *Hawaii Island residents lead healthy and productive lives, make healthy choices, and have access to quality healthcare*  
**Mission:** *To develop and promote consensus agreements and recommendations for improving access to and quality of healthcare services on Hawaii Island*



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
TIME OF HEARING: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY ON HB847 HD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers,  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW acknowledges that the shortage of primary care providers in Hawaii is a critical issue. This measure addresses the situation and also recognizes the importance of cultivating talent in rural areas.

We ask that your committee pass HB847 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**Senate Committee on Health**

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 847 HD1**

**Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corp**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**March 18, 2015, 1:30 pm, Room 414**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 847, 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.

House Bill 847 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.



## **HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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

TO:

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 414

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association  
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director  
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

**Re: SB 406**

**Position: SUPPORT**

This measure addresses primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the Interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center.

Given Hawaii's severe shortage of physicians we strongly support any program to train new physicians in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

#### *Officers*

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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: Chair Josh Green  
Vice Chair Glenn Wakai  
Senate Committee on Health

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

Re: HB 847 HD 1, Relating to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation  
Hearing—March 18, 2015 at 1:30 PM

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The Queen's Health Systems would like to take this opportunity to provide support for the primary care training program at Hilo Medical Center.

The Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment Project estimates that, by 2020, Hawaii could be facing a shortage of 1,400 physicians. Access to primary care physicians, in particular, can be very difficult for neighbor island and rural communities. Supporting investments to recruit, train and retain providers in places like Hilo is critical to helping expand access to care for thousands of residents.

We must pursue a number of programs and initiatives in our efforts to expand access to necessary care for all residents of Hawaii, including investing in the training of primary care doctors. That is why we ask for your support of this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

*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.*

**William P. Kenoi**  
Mayor



**Darren J. Rosario**  
Fire Chief

**Renwick J. Victorino**  
Deputy Fire Chief

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 414  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Green:

**Subject: HB 847, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414**

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 847 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Your support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will positively provide adequate provider coverage in Hawaii.

The Hawai'i Fire Department sees this measure as providing direct positive outcomes in the delivery of critical 911 services on Hawai'i Island.

- Increasing the number of family practice physicians is expected to decrease the number and rate of "potentially avoidable hospitalizations and unnecessary taxation of the 911 emergency ambulance services," which the state now pays for through both its Medicaid program and unreimbursed care by state's public hospital system, Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.
- In Hawai'i County, 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 pre-hospital intervention. For example, early intervention of coronary and diabetic illnesses will decrease the need for repeat calls for ambulance services.



The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Page 2  
March 16, 2015

The HFD 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 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. This concept fits right into the rural nature of many of Hawaii Islands residential communities. These communities currently rely on the HFD Ambulance service for many non-critical medical needs. This is directly due to unavailable physician level care.

The HFD has a great relationship with the few physicians that practice on Hawai'i Island. We are all part of a team that provides the best medical care possible to our residents and visitors. We look forward to expanding this relationship through the up and coming concept of Community Paramedicine programs. These programs cannot succeed without adequate physicians.

The HFD urges you to pass HB847. Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2903 or [darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov) should you have any questions.

Respectfully,



DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
TIME: 1:30PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Support of HB 847 HD1**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY  
CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

**Julie Tulang, President**  
**Hilo Medical Center Foundation**

We, the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees, supports of the Primary Care Program that invest in training family practice residents in a rural setting like Hawaii Island. We endorse the HHSCPCTP as one of the ways to provide more primary care physicians that will hopefully.

1. Provide family medicine physicians in rural area of our state, so everyone who wants a doctor can have access to one.
2. We are thrilled with the “patient home” model that is being used at this Primary Care Training program. The health care “team” includes 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 who trained in an area are likely to 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.

We, the Hilo Medical Center Foundation, believe that good health care starts with the individual, their Primary Care Physician, and the health care team. It is with the voice of the people from rural communities like ours that we support HB 847 HD1 that authorizes appropriation of funds for the HHSC Primary Care Training Program administered by the Hilo Medical Center.

We urge you to pass HB 847 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 847 HD1.



**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Christine Takahashi, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:

Friday, February 27, 2015

TIME:

11:00 AM

PLACE:

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Support of HB 847 HD 1

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE  
TRAINING PROGRAM.

The Zonta Club of Hilo supports HB 847 HD 1, with the original requested funding. Zonta is an international organization of professional and business women whose mission is to advance the status of women and girls worldwide. Good health care is fundamental to accomplish this goal.

The Zonta Club members intend to strengthen the state's health provider workforce through the HHSC Primary Care Training Program (HHSCPCTP).

Support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will generate greater numbers of doctors practicing throughout the islands, but especially in the super-rural areas, whose need is great. The Program is one means to reduce the doctor shortage in Hawaii. Investing in training of 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, such as East Hawaii, the impact of the Residency Program and greater access to family medicine physicians is projected to have a significant 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). The Zonta Club 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 trains will transform Hawaii's future health care. These "teams" 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.

Zonta Club of Hilo recognizes 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.

The Zonta Club of Hilo, comprised of professional and business women, urge you to pass HB 847, HD 1 with adequate funding, to ensure a responsive health care system for future generations on the Neighbor Islands.

Thank you.

Charlene Iboshi  
Advocacy Chair, Zonta Club of Hilo

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Joni Waltjen, Administrative Service Office (Finance), am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkurohara@gmail.com](mailto:rkurohara@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 9:23:18 AM

---

**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Kurohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the full funding of the Hawaii Island Family Residency Program or legislatively known as the HHSC Primary Care Training Program. This program serves a vital role in addressing our physician shortage in Hawaii and in particular RURAL Hawaii where many of our community members are without a primary care physician. This program has the support of the community and is now recruiting for it's second class of physician residents.

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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THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**MEMBERS**

Rosalyn Baker    Mike Gabbard  
Gil Riviere    Russell E. Ruderman  
Sam Slom

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE:    Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
TIME:    1:15PM  
PLACE:    Conference Room 414  
            State Capitol  
            415 South Beretania Street

**Support of HB847  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING  
PROGRAM**

***YOUR NAME AND AFFILIATION/TITLE***

I, Robert DeCoito, am in full support of HB 847 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will generate greater numbers of providers practicing throughout the islands. ***I/We*** Endorse 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).

***I/We*** recognize 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.

***I/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.

*I/We* urge you to pass HB847. Thank you.

**From:** [creagan1 - Dannah](#) on behalf of [HLTtestimony](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in strong support of HB847  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 8:58:45 AM

---

Dannah Amewouame Daketse  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Representative Richard Creagan, District 5  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 331  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-9606  
Email: [creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Richard Creagan represents the 5th House District- Na'alehu, Ocean View, Miloli'i, Ho'okena, Kealia, Honaunau, Captain Cook, Kealakekua, Kainaliu, Keauhou, Kahalu'u (Island of Hawai'i).  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark [<mailto:mak221@aol.com>]  
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 7:00 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: Testimony in strong support of HB847

Aloha Honorable Senators of the Health Committee,

I am Mark Koppel, P O Box 283, Hakalau, HI 96710 and am writing in strong support of HB 847.

I know first hand the medical crisis we face on Hawaii island because of a shortage of doctors.

To find my PCP, I had to travel all the Waimea, an hour's trip. There was no one in Hilo who was taking new patients. I still have to travel that hour.

When I experienced an ear problem, I discovered we have one ENT doctor on the entire island. I called in December and was told the doctor was only taking appointments starting in April! I had to fly to Honolulu, at my own expense, to see a doctor. We still have only one.

Our situation is only getting worse. We need new doctors NOW.

HB847 can help us deal with this crisis.

Mahalo

Mark Koppel



THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

MEMBERS

Rosalyn Baker    Mike Gabbard  
Gil Riviere    Russell E. Ruderman  
Sam Slom

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

TIME:

1:15PM

PLACE:

Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Support of HB847

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE  
TRAINING PROGRAM

YOUR NAME AND AFFILIATION/TITLE

I, John E. Orozco, am in full support of HB 847 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will generate greater numbers of providers practicing throughout the islands. I endorse the HHSC PCTP 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).

I recognize 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.

I 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. I urge you to pass HB847. Thank you.

**From:** [creagan1 - Dannah](#) on behalf of [HLTtestimony](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 847 to fund Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Pogram  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 8:58:05 AM

---

Dannah Amewouame Daketse  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Representative Richard Creagan, District 5  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 331  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-9606  
Email: [creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov)

*Richard Creagan represents the 5th House District- Na'alehu, Ocean View, Miloli'i, Ho'okena, Kealia, Honaunau, Captain Cook, Kealakekua, Kainaliu, Keauhou, Kahalu'u (Island of Hawai'i).*

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---

**From:** Lorraine Hora [mailto:[lorrainehora@yahoo.com](mailto:lorrainehora@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:41 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 847 to fund Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Pogram

Senator Josh Green, Chair, Health Committee

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Ways and Means Committee

I ask for your support on HB 847 to fund the Family Medicine Residency Program in Hilo, Hawaii.

We have welcomed the first four doctors this past year and it has been such a tremendous boost to the community. Hilo has only one hospital and one emergency room at that hospital. This program offers immediate care for patients needing attention of a non-emergency illness or injury. Having an alternate medical doctor and facility is priceless. We want these professionals to train and stay on our island. Continued funding for the program is essential for our future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.  
Lorraine M. Hora  
648 Hinano Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Tracy Aruga, Safety Officer, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Dr. Natalie Kehau Kong, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

On Friday, January 23, 2015 I appeared on the front page of the Hawai'i Tribune Herald along with Dr. Ka'ohimanu Dang Akiona one of the residents of the PCTP. The article, along with one published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on January 20th talked about the severe doctor shortage in Hawai'i. I am here to provide a face and a story behind the numbers and graphs in these articles.

I was born and raised in Waimanalo, O'ahu. My father is a counselor and teacher at Windward Community College. His father was a bus driver and his mother was a day laborer. My mother is the Volunteer Coordinator at Castle Medical Center. Her father served in the Army and Air Force and her mother worked in the Kaiser system for many years. My sister works on Hawai'i Island with Hale Kipa. I attended Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa for my undergraduate, graduate and post-baccalaureate training. I graduated from the John A. Burns School of Medicine and did a Family Medicine Residency in Phoenix, Arizona. I have just completed a Rural Medicine and Obstetrics Fellowship in Tacoma, Washington. I am currently one of only two Family Medicine physicians trained to do c-sections on the island of Hawai'i. I am also the newest faculty member of the HHSC PCTP.

Like so many of our people in Hawai'i, my family suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure, morbid obesity and cancer. I became a doctor because I wanted to help them. My training has been a 19-year long process that has taken me farther away from my home and family than I ever thought or wanted to go. Now I am finally home to take care of my people.

It has not been easy transitioning from resident to real working doctor. It is even harder being a new Attending physician with eager, young residents looking to me for answers. But since I came to Hilo and this program I have had so many people say, "Ho! It's so good to see one local doctah here!" Patients ask me all the time, "You goin stay right?" The day the Hawai'i Tribune article came out I was stopped in the halls of Hilo Medical Center numerous times by and facility service people, visitors, nurses and seemingly random strangers. They said, "Hi doc, saw your picture in the paper. I going send my friends to you, kay!" It is for these people that we need this Primary Care Training Program. The doctors that I have met and work with in Hilo are exceptionally dedicated people. They work tirelessly to care for our families. They work constantly because there are not enough of them. We need 200 physicians on Hawai'i Island alone and over 800 physicians in this State. Today, we have an opportunity to ease this problem.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

The PCTP can provide physicians, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners and psychologists for the State of Hawai'i for generations to come. The Health Professionals that graduate from our program will be fed on our 'aina, grounded in the cultures of our islands and understand the importance of our relationships. We can already see the potential in Hilo. There are several recent JABSOM graduates returning to work in East Hawai'i. There are residents from O'ahu who are looking to work in Hilo. There are applicants from Hilo and the outer islands that can't wait to come home to complete their training. We are all just waiting for you to say yes.

At the Hawai'i Island Family Residency Program I have gotten everything I ever wanted. I am home. I am caring not only for my family but also for my neighbors, friends of friends, relatives of friends and visitors from all over world. On top of that, I get to teach the future doctors of Hawai'i. This is the way that I honor those who have nurtured me and this is the way that we as a State can be sure that we are never "short" on caring for our people again.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.



**From:** [Verna Uyetake](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of the following  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 8:07:07 AM

---

HB 847 hd1 r/t HHSC Primary Care Training Program

Mahalo,  
Verna Uyetake, MSW  
Hale Ho`ola Hamakua  
Social Services Dept.  
45-547 Plumeria St.  
Honokaa, HI 96743  
(808) 932-4161; (808) 932-4171) FAX

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**From:** [Dan Domizio](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB847 HD-1  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 8:05:54 AM

---

Hawaii needs this residency program for now and in the future. There must be a pipeline of new physicians who will remain in Hawaii to provide health services. The shortages are desperate. Please pass this bill and provide sufficient funding for its survival and Hawaii's future.

Thank you.  
Dan Domizio

---

**Dan Domizio PA, MPH**  
Clinical Programs Director  
Puna Community Medical Center  
15-2662 Pahoia Village Rd.  
Suite 306, PMB 8741  
Pahoia, HI 96778

808-930-6001

**From:** [Patty Bray](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of HB 847 HD 1 in regards to HHSC PCTP  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 8:05:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

-  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Patty Bray, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

Thank you,

*Patty Bray*

Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant to Lisa Rantz

1190 Waianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Ph#:808-935-2957  
Fax: 808-974-4746  
email: [pbray@hhsc.org](mailto:pbray@hhsc.org)

Please visit our website at [www.hilomedicalcenterfoundation.org](http://www.hilomedicalcenterfoundation.org)

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message.

**From:** [Nora Waters](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Hawaii Island Primary Care Training Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:53:52 AM

---

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

-  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, [Nora Barrington Waters, RN, MSN, CNS](#) am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared

for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

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**From:** [Elena Cabatu](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 847 HD1, Funding the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:51:25 AM  
**Importance:** High

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

-  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, [Elena Cabatu, Community Relations Manager at for the East Hawaii Region of HHSC](#), am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared



for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

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**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

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Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Janice Harvey, 43 year resident and professional on the Big Island, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**From:** [creagan1 - Dannah](#) on behalf of [HLTtestimony](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 847 (HHSC PCTP)  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 11:22:27 AM

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Dannah Amewouame Daketse  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Representative Richard Creagan, District 5  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 331  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-9606  
Email: [creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Richard Creagan represents the 5th House District- Na'alehu, Ocean View, Miloli'i, Ho'okena, Kealia, Honaunau, Captain Cook, Kealakekua, Kainaliu, Keauhou, Kahalu'u (Island of Hawai'i).

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-----Original Message-----

From: Lillian Takemura [<mailto:takemural@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:13 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: HB 847 (HHSC PCTP)

Please continue to support funding of the Hawaii island medical residency program. This program will help to add and retain primary care doctors, as others retire. I know from personal experience how difficult it is to be accepted by doctors who are already at patient capacity. Young people are moving back home to raise their families and the need has become more urgent for this program.

Thank you for your support.

Lillian Takemura  
650 Laukapu St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

Sent from my iPad

*From the office of -*  
Council Member  
District 4 – Puna Makai



Office: (808) 965-2712  
Fax: (808) 965-2707  
Email: [gilagan@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:gilagan@hawaiicounty.gov)

**GREGGOR ILAGAN**

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Health

Dear Senator Green and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill 847. This is one of the initiatives that is supported by the Hawai'i State Association of Counties, as the benefits gained from the continuation of this program will accrue to the people of the entire State, including the district of Puna, which I represent on the Hawai'i County Council.

Access to quality health care in rural areas such as in Puna is difficult as increasing numbers of physicians reach retirement age. The HHSC Primary Care Training Program seeks to address the shortage of primary care providers in the state by appropriating funds for the continuation of this existing program.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greggor Ilagan".

Greggor Ilagan  
Council Member

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Maryanne Genova, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**From:** [Steven Galper, MD](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 7:31:05 AM  
**Importance:** High

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#### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Steven R. Galper, MD, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's

two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program. Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

Steven R. Galper, MD, JD

Physician

Psychiatry and Pain Medicine

Hilo Medical Center

1190 Waianuenue Avenue

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Telephone: 808-932-3580

Mobile : 808-445-1878

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**From:** [Frances Spector](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tpeskin@hsc.org](mailto:tpeskin@hsc.org)  
**Subject:** Statement on legislation for family practice residency in Hilo  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:10:51 AM

---

I support HB 847 HD 1

Frances Spector MD  
Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
Office: 808 934 2910  
Cell: 808 747-3947



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I am writing to offer my full support of HB 847 and SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing home and have engaged in community activities. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home. This health care home is a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii.

The benefits of the HHSC PCTP are numerous.

- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice in this setting after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.
- 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.
- HHSC PCTP is training Hawaii's future providers to combine one physician and a team to care for up to 5,000 patients. The current model of care involves one primary care physician for 1,200-2,000 individuals with a small staff, usually including a medical assistant and receptionist.
- The 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).

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask them to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rontthi@gmail.com](mailto:rontthi@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2015 5:33:45 PM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cvancamp3@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cvancamp3@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2015 5:53:13 PM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol A. VanCamp	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This program is critical to our statewide efforts to recruit more primary care doctors. It is already training residents and needs your continued financial support. It would be huge setback in our efforts to attract physicians if this program was to be discontinued due to lack of funding. Please support the financial request presented in this bill.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [joyamarshall0416@gmail.com](mailto:joyamarshall0416@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2015 7:21:48 PM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Continue to be in support of this

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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mike@middlesworth.com](mailto:mike@middlesworth.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:12:38 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Middlesworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The residency program is vital to improving access to healthcare in Hawaii and I support full funding for it.

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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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol,  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

**Dan Brinkman, Interim Chief Executive Officer  
East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation**

Please accept my full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a

four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
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**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Holly Ka`akimaka, Human Resources Director for HHSC, East Hawaii Region, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.



THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Gay Porter, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

*Gay Porter*  
Sr. Vice President

*Business Insurance Services, Inc.*

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ross@current-events.com](mailto:ross@current-events.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 11:10:22 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Primary Care Training Program will help alleviate the physician shortage throughout the state by training and retaining these doctors. HHSC's program is housed at Hilo Medical Center and is a model for success.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dbaker@current-events.com](mailto:dbaker@current-events.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 11:13:48 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debbie Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
To: [HTHTestimony](#)  
Cc: [alissa.makuakane@gmail.com](mailto:alissa.makuakane@gmail.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:36:02 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

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

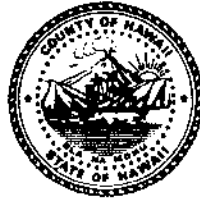
Comments: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM. I, Alissa Makuakane-Miyashiro, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center. Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons: · It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii. · As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state. · The 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). · When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists. Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program. Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians. I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems

Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

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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DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
Council Member  
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396  
FAX: (808) 961-8912  
EMAIL: [donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 16, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of House Bill No. 847 HD1.

By continuing the funding for a program to train primary care physicians, this bill will help to relieve the acute physician shortage in rural areas across our precious State.

In its first year, the Primary Care Training Program received 138 applications for the four Residency Program positions. In 2014, the program's second year, applications soared to 500-plus.

In all, 40 healthcare professionals were trained during the program's first year. In addition to the four first-year residents, training for pharmacy students, advanced practice registered nurses, psychology trainees and medical students was provided under the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program.

There is a critical need for more physicians statewide, and especially on our neighbor islands.

Approval of this \$3.7 million appropriation will improve health care options for thousands of patients, and will provide a model to tackle the growing need for physicians in underserved areas. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi  
Hawai'i County Council Member

**From:** [Edward Peskin, MD](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support HB 847 HD 1 to fund the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program, legislatively known as the HHSC Primary Care Physician Training Program (HHSC PCTP).  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 12:56:39 PM

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As chief medical officer for Hilo Medical Center, I very frequently see the evidence of the shortage of primary care physicians on the neighbor islands based on the number of patients who use the much more expensive emergency room as their primary care physician, because they cannot get into a primary care physician's office.

As the physicians in training graduate from this program, we should see this problem improving. Therefore, support for this program is essential.

Ted Peskin,MD

Edward (Ted) Peskin,MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
East Hawaii Region  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation  
Medical Staff Services  
Hilo Medical Center  
1190 Waianuenue Ave  
Hilo,HI 96720  
(office) (808) 932-3170  
fax: (808) 933-9901  
(cell) (808) 333-0285  
email: [tpeskin@hhsc.org](mailto:tpeskin@hhsc.org)

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
March 18, 2015 at 1:30pm

by

Jerry L. Chang  
110 Chong St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 286-0461  
mastif8@gmail.com

**HB 847 HD1 - RELATING TO HAWAI'I HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jerry Chang. I am expressing my strong support for HB 847 HD1 as a member of the Hawai'i Island community.

The entire state faces a severe physician shortage of over 150 doctors, with projections to worsen in the next five years as many doctors retire.

The funding for the Interdisciplinary Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center will not only train doctors but will also offer training for advanced practice nurses from programs at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and Hilo, and to students from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

It has been documented that physicians, nurses and pharmacists attending rural training programs are much more likely to practice in a rural area.

Thank you,  
Jerry Chang



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [carolgalper@gmail.com](mailto:carolgalper@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 2:25:41 PM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol Q. Galper, EdD	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This program is crucial to the health care community in rural Hawaii and to assure all people living on the neighbor islands are able to be cared for in their home community. The evidence regarding the training of physicians and their interest in staying where they train is significant. The innovative approach with the entire primary care training team will help assure care for all of us who do not live on Oahu. Please fund this program!

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:** [John DeCaro](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 2:52:29 PM

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, [John J. De Caro, MD](#), am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

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**From:** [Laurie Hopman](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support HB847 HD1  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 3:17:08 PM

---

I am a physician in full time practice in Hilo and I strongly support HB847 HD1

Laurie Hopman, MD, FAAFP  
409 Kilauea Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808-933-9187

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, **Avis Mortemore**, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, **RICHARD A. Mortemore**, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**MEMBERS**

Rosalyn Baker    Mike Gabbard  
Gil Riviere    Russell E. Ruderman  
Sam Slom

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE:    Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
TIME:    1:15PM  
PLACE:    Conference Room 414  
            State Capitol  
            415 South Beretania Street

**Support of HB847  
RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM**

Aloha Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 847 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will generate greater numbers of providers practicing throughout the islands. I endorse the HHSCPCTP as a Means of Closing the Provider Gap in Hawai'i.

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, Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i means each additional physician is expected to generate 5 new jobs and new tax revenue. (Source: The Lewin Group).

I recognize 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 Hawai'i'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.

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.

I urge you to pass HB847.

Respectfully submitted,

Forrest Batz, PharmD  
Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice  
The Daniel K Inouye College of Pharmacy  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo



Please lend your whole-hearted support to HB847 to improve the availability and quality of health services to residents of the Big Island. The provisions of the bill address the shortage of health practitioners on our island and takes a “from within” approach to solving a long-standing problem. Thank you for your consideration and support.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kanemotow001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kanemotow001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 6:35:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony HB847 PCTP 03-18-2015.pages.zip](#)

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne Kanemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Valerie Tan](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB 847 HD 1  
**Date:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:14:41 PM

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I support HB 847 HD 1

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Paula De Morales, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm  
Conference Room 414, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, David S. De Luz, Jr., am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

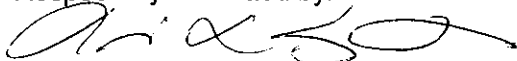
- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The 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).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted by:



David S. De Luz, Jr.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dnishioka@cuhawaii.com](mailto:dnishioka@cuhawaii.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:12:42 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darren Nishioka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [lyric](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Hb 847 hd1  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:57:23 AM

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I support HB 847 HD1. This funding is vital to our community. If the residency loses funding the only real chance we have to attract new physicians to Hawaii island is gone. It is crucial this not happen

Aloha ke Akua,  
Lyric

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lhamano@vmchawaii.com](mailto:lhamano@vmchawaii.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:00:57 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laurie hamano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please realize that the Big Island has a huge shortage of doctors! Your support is needed!

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lmiyahira@vmchawaii.com](mailto:lmiyahira@vmchawaii.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:37:45 AM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lily Miyahira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator Russell E. Ruderman

Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom

Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Ka`ohimanu L.K. Dang Akiona, MD, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

I am one of the first four residents being trained by the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency.

I was born and raised in Central O`ahu, in Wahiawa, Hale`iwa, Mililani. I am named after my great-grandmother, Lydia Leinani Kaulula`au Walker, born Hana Maui who lives in Nanakuli homestead and is a spry 90 years young. My father is a warehouse supervisor. His father was a Maui born full Chinese tug boat engineer and his mother was a Hawaiian Chinese homemaker. My mother is a clerk at Safeway. Her father was a kolohe Hawaiian Filipino kid from Hale`iwa who is now retired from the Honolulu Police Dept and her mother was a full Hawaiian foster child, a US postal worker who passed from colon cancer at the young age of 48. I am the oldest of three, and a product of Kamehameha schools and UH Manoa, where I studied Hawaiian Studies and Cell and Molecular Biology. I participated in several programs that targeted minority populations, and did research in different settings including `Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network as a Liko Noelo (budding researcher) where I helped set up the Cancer Patient Navigator training program statewide. After working at the Dept of Native Hawaiian Health at our John A. Burns School of Medicine, I left for medical school and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with full financial assistance from the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship. I am the first in my family to graduate college and I am extremely humbled to be here today.

At a young age, I watched my healthy, loving grandmother waste away from colon cancer and die in pain. This experience stuck with me years later when as a young researcher, I travelled island to island to hear real patients talk about their care experiences. The system itself is difficult to navigate, and when one is chronically ill, as many of our patients tend to be, it became evident to me that there were too many holes in the net for patients to be loss to follow up. The biggest learning experience for me was following the care journey of someone from an outer island who needed to see a healthcare provider on Oahu.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

It was, however, also amazing how each community stepped up with what resources they had to provide as much as possible for their constituents. I have been very mindful of this as I transitioned back to local living after medical school. I understand fully that I am here today because my community stepped up and fought for the program, for the funding, for me and for others like me and for that I am so grateful.

The doctors and providers that I have met and work with in Hilo are exceptionally dedicated people. I have been impressed time and again at the level of dedication many of these long time physicians have for our community. This is important for me, as a wife and mother - these docs work constantly because there are not enough of them. We need more than 200 physicians on Hawai'i Island alone and over 800 physicians in this state. This PCTP program is an opportunity to ease this problem by training more physicians, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners and psychologists for the State of Hawai'i for generations to come. As trainees like me are immersed in the system and work together, we build relationships that are grounded in the values of our community- collegiality and teamwork, responsibility, respect and humility, with a little bit of local style learning and laughter. I look around just at Hilo Medical Center and I see so much local born talent. I meet applicants to our residency program with real roots and ties to our islands. They tell me they can't wait to come home- come home to stay, they say. I want to ask you to please consider the impact this bill can have for more like me, who want an opportunity to give back to the community that raised us.

I can tell you first hand that while I am here to serve I have gotten so much more in return. All the doctors, busy as they are, giving us their time to teach and help nurture us; the amazing Hilo Medical staff that surround us- investing their time teaching us and working to be better providers; and our community who trust us to care for their family members with the aloha they deserve. I am here because at some point people like you stood to fund programs that gave me an opportunity I would not have had without the PCTP, HCOP or the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship investing in me. Let others like me give back and also reach back to help others along the pipeline. I stand here today as proof of the program's commitment to bringing local kids home.

Interest in our program has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's critical need of over 800 physicians.

Thank you for, members of this committee, for hearing this bill. Please support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

**From:** [Stewart Hussey](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Miles Yoshioka](#)  
**Subject:** VOTE IN FAVOR OF HB 847 HD 1  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 11:49:00 AM  
**Importance:** High

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To Whom It May Concern:

I urge a YES vote on HB 847 HD 1 in order to continue funding for a vital health care initiative on the Island of Hawaii.

With Aloha,

Stew Hussey

Stewart H. Hussey, President & Chief Appraiser  
Appraisal Institute Candidate for Designation  
Hawaii Certified General Appraiser 540  
License Expires 12-31-2015

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nicleapoliona@gmail.com](mailto:nicleapoliona@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:16:52 PM

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**HB847**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Apoliona, M.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB847 is an important measure for addressing the primary care physician shortage in our state, particularly in rural areas. This shortage is predicted to grow significantly in the next few years and training physicians in our state is the best way to provide new physicians to address this shortage.

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**From:** [creagan1 - Dannah](#) on behalf of [HLTtestimony](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB847  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:25:06 PM

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Dannah Amewouame Daketse  
Legislative Aide  
Office of Representative Richard Creagan, District 5  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 331  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-9606  
Email: [creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:creagan1@capitol.hawaii.gov)

*Richard Creagan represents the 5th House District- Na'alehu, Ocean View, Miloli'i, Ho'okena, Kealia, Honaunau, Captain Cook, Kealakekua, Kainaliu, Keauhou, Kahalu'u (Island of Hawai'i).*

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**From:** [patnsteve@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:patnsteve@hawaiiantel.net) [mailto:[patnsteve@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:patnsteve@hawaiiantel.net)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:12 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB847

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Steven Godzsak, fully support HB 847 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

My support was reinforced recently when my wife experienced an emergency which placed her in HMC for several days. She was well cared for by ER doctors and doctors from the primary care program. The doctors were compassionate, responsive, and professional throughout her stay. They explained test results and on-going treatment clearly so that we understood. We are extremely grateful that these doctors are here and it is our hope that more doctors will choose to do their residency here and remain in Hawaii.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask them to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.





**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Sam Slom  
Senator Gil Riviere

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

**Mark A. Knox, MD**

**Faculty, Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program**

Please accept my testimony in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP), also known as the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program at Hilo Medical Center.

I joined the Family Medicine Residency Program as a faculty member in 2012. Along with Residency Program Director, Dr. Kristine McCoy, I helped expand the Family Medicine practice so that we would have enough patients for the residents to care for, and I helped write the documents that we submitted for our initial accreditation. I have almost 33 years of experience in practicing medicine and over 26 years of experience teaching physicians across the country, from Madison and Eau Claire, WI, to Galveston, TX, to Las Cruces, NM, to Pittsburgh, PA. In addition, I am also a Clinical Associate Professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine University of Hawai'i. I chose to complete my career in Hawaii because I wanted to participate in starting a residency in an area of great need, with the chance to help create a new model of teaching and practice in a rural area. My wife and I also have strong ties to Hawaii. Our son, Dr. Jeffery B. Knox, is an orthopedic surgeon at Tripler Army Medical Center.

The HHSC PCTP is of great significance to the state because it helps address our state's physician shortage crisis. On Hawaii Island, we are short over 200 physicians and our state needs over 800 physicians. The interdisciplinary training of our physicians among nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and psychologists prepares the entire team to deliver the best care to our patients within our patient center medical home.

I can speak from personal experience to the effectiveness of training family physicians in rural, medically underserved areas. For 3 years, I was the director of a residency program in Las Cruces, NM, a town about the size of Hilo, and in a very rural area of a large, sparsely populated state. During my time there, 30 physicians left town, largely due to the closing of a large multi-specialty practice, but 7 of our graduates stayed in Las Cruces. Many others settled in other underserved areas of the state. Since I left, many other graduates have since stayed to practice in Las Cruces.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. On Friday, March 20, we will find out the next 4 residents who have been matched to our program.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask for your support in funding the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.