



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
and
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 24, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

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

SB 2388 – RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SPECIAL FUND

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Dela Cruz, and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 2388, which permits the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A Burns School of Medicine special fund to be used for loan repayment for certain health care professionals. The measure also seeks to remove the cap on expenditures from the fund and remove the sunset date.

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

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

Current Status of Loan Repayment:

Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the John. A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. ***This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals.*** The individuals funded are from all the islands except Kauai (so far, but we hope to change

that). Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight FNPs and one Geriatric/Adult NP), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

Federal Loan Matching Money Left on the Table:

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

Dr. Withy has been able to match \$100,000 of the funds. But over \$200,000 went unused and the federal government decreased Hawai'i's award to \$225,000 a year.

SB 2388 would:

- Allow the JABSOM Special Fund to be used for loan repayment for certain healthcare professionals;
- Remove spending cap to enable to fund to accept and use the monies for loan repayment; and
- Remove the sunset date of June 30, 2017.

Passage of SB 2388 would enable JABSOM to continue its research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention and continuing education), as well as eliminate the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar-for-dollar match.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
10:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2388, RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SPECIAL FUND.**

TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on Senate Bill No. 2388, Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund.

The purpose of this bill is to enable the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine ("JABSOM") to continue to evaluate Hawaii's health care needs and accept and disburse funds toward health care student loan repayment.

The Board supports the intent of accepting and disbursing funds toward health care student loan repayment. However, the Board would prefer that any assessed fees transferred and deposited into the special fund pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §453-8.8 be used towards student loan repayment for physicians only.

With regard to repealing the sunset date of June 30, 2017, to allow JABSOM to continue evaluating the health care needs of the State, the Board understands the intent

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2388

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

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of this provision, but respectfully request that the assessment fee be repealed by June 30, 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2388, Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
February 24, 2016 10:00 a.m.**

**by
Laura Reichhardt, NP-C, APRN, Director
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

SB2388 RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SPECIAL FUND

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB2388 Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund.

Hawai'i has a shortage of primary care and behavioral health providers. The nation and the state have identified initiatives to address the healthcare provider shortage including workforce development support of providers including physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Physicians Assistants, Behavioral Health Specialists, and others. Two of the efforts critical to these efforts are healthcare workforce assessments and loan repayment for health care professionals in the state.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) is a strong collaborative partner with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) in assessing our provider workforce, including nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, physicians and physician assistants. The data acquired through these assessments is provided to the legislature, health care industry leaders, nursing schools, JABSOM, and other health care stakeholders to help inform policy, strategies, and decisions related to ensuring an adequate supply of quality health care providers across the state.

Further, Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight Family Nurse Practitioners and one Geriatric/Adult Nurse Practitioner), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community

health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue and for the opportunity to testify!



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Ketih-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

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

Date: February 23, 2016

Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and Committee on Ways and Means Joint
Hearing; Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 10:00am in Room 211

**Re: Support for SB 2388, Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special
Fund**

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **support** for SB 2388, which would provide funding for a loan repayment program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) for certain health care professionals.

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

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

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

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



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2388

Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund
Submitted by Dustin Stevens, Public Affairs and Policy Director
February 24, 2016, 10:00 am, Room 211

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2388, permitting moneys in the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Special Fund to be used for loan repayment and workforce development.

Faced with an aging primary care workforce and a lack of new physicians joining the workforce, Hawaii has a growing shortage of health providers that is fast becoming alarming. Studies have shown that the fastest and most efficient way to combat such a dearth is through loan repayment, something JABSOM has been able to achieve through a public-private partnership with HMSA, Queen's, and AlohaCare. Together, these entities have been able to partner with the federal government to put in place a matching program that provides up to \$40,000 annually for 19 vital care providers in the state, many of whom provide services at community health centers.

Senate Bill 2388 seeks to continue this effort by raising the spending cap from the JABSOM Special Fund, which will enable funds to be disbursed to more individuals, helping to alleviate the shortage of medical workers in the state.

For these reasons, the HPCA supports this bill, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii State Rural Health Association

Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB2388**. Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place. The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawaii, has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho`okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawaii Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, provide continuing education to over 2,000 providers, and begin a State Loan Repayment Program.

Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. The individuals funded are from all the islands except Kauai (so far, but we hope to change that). Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight FNPs and one Geriatric/Adult NP), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

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

SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

Lanai Community Health Center

Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

JDL/WAM Committee, Room 211

February 24, 2016 at 10:00am

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB2388**. I am a clinical psychologist working on Lanai at the community health center. Life on Lanai is challenging, especially for patients with chronic illnesses, and until 2012, when I arrived, there had been no permanent full time mental health provider living on the island available to the general population; instead it was limited to only those with certain qualifying severe conditions. I would love to keep working with this unique and deserving community, however my graduate student loans are so hefty, it is difficult to justify staying on Lanai when I could go to another location and receive loan repayment. It is also difficult because the housing is so limited and inadequate, that as a 40+ year old married woman, I must share housing with friends. It would make such a huge difference in my decision to stay on Lanai if I received loan repayment! It would balance out other challenges. It would also make it more likely that we would be able to recruit providers in the future—another huge challenge we continue to face whenever there is turnover or need to expand services.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Please do everything you can to support this bill and to support any and every effort to secure state loan repayment to aid the recruitment and retention of our much needed primary care and behavioral health providers. It will mean greater health and well being across the islands!

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD

Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB2388**. Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place. The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawaii, has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho`okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawaii Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, listing all physician job openings on ahcc.hawaii.edu, publishing articles describing the workforce in Hawaii, presenting the information across Hawaii, providing continuing education to over 2,000 providers to update them on healthcare changes in the US, beginning a State Loan Repayment Program, and supporting a distance learning program for rural providers called Project ECHO.

SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities described above, as well as raise the spending cap so that any money raised, appropriated or donated can be used to expand loan repayment to primary and behavioral health providers working in underserved areas. Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. The individuals funded are from all the islands except Kauai (so far, but we hope to change that). Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight FNPs and one Geriatric/Adult NP), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

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

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

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SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

As one of the many physicians practicing medicine in Hawaii, and serving a rural area in the Big Island, I have fallen love with the people and the area, and hope to continue to provide care towards health for this community. It would be extremely gratifying to have the financial support of this program to offset the sacrifice made to get here. Thank you personally for your consideration and support!

Irene Hwang

Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

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Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

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On a personal note, I came to Hawaii to work as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist with \$320,000 dollars in student loan debt. Hawaii is significantly underserved in Behavioral Health

Services and my goal is to help address this need. As you know the cost of living in Hawaii is exceptionally high and the pay for Physicians tends to be lower than the Mainland. Additionally my Fiance, Melissa Zass, is studying at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the Elementary Education Program. She has been denied in-state Tuition from the University and we have to take out an additional \$30,000 per year in student loans for her to be able to finish school in May 2017. Thus, I am reliant on the Hawaii Student Loan Repayment Program In order to remain working and serving the community of Maui with my Fiance. HHSC and Maui Memorial Medical Center have been generous to match the funds for the loan repayment program however this is not the case for many of my colleagues throughout Hawaii. As you know HHSC will no longer be managing Maui Memorial Medical Center and Kaiser may be unwilling to match the funds for this program and this potentially puts my future in Hawaii at risk. Please consider passing SB2388 for the sake of quality health care in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

Sincerely,

Andrew Martin, DO

Board Certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

John Misaidilis

Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

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Alicia Turlington

Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

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Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. The individuals funded are from all the islands except Kauai (so far, but we hope to change that). Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight FNPs and one Geriatric/Adult NP), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

I am one of the individuals funded by the HSLRP and can attest that without this funding, I could not afford to continue at a community health center with my debt burden in the state of Hawai'i. I would likely need to take a more lucrative position in another state if my loans were not being addressed via this most important program. I love my job and helping the underserved and this program allows me to keep doing the work that I feel our community benefits from.

In September, 2014, Dr. Kelley Withy at John A. Burns School of Medicine has received a 4 year grant for \$311,875 a year in federal funds to be spent on loan repayment in Hawaii for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers and marriage and family counselors who work in non-profit settings in Health Profession Shortage Areas. BUT

the money can only be spent if there is local funding to match it (dollar for dollar). She has only been able to match \$100,000 of the funds, so over \$200,000 went unused and the federal government decreased the award to \$225,000 a year.

SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:21 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2388 on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM*

SB2388

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Bishop	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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