

SB2388

Testimony

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

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

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

Companion: HB1949

Package: None

Current Referral: HEA/CPH, JDL/WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, DELA CRUZ, GREEN, INOUYE, KIDANI, SHIMABUKURO, TOKUDA, Espero, Gabbard



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
and
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:45 p.m.
by
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and
Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM)
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

Chairs Taniguchi and Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2388, which permits the JABSOM 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 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 Kaua'i (so far, but we hope to change that). Nine are

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

Federal Loan Matching Money Left on the Table:

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



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

Date: February 8, 2016

Hrg: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts and Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Health Joint Hearing; Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:45pm
in Room 224

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 strong 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: aduran@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2388 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:54:26 AM
Attachments: [Support for SB2388.docx](#)

SB2388

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aileen Duran	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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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!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: annechipchase@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2388 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:13:19 AM
Attachments: [Support for SB2388.docx](#)

SB2388

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
anne chipchase	Hawaii State Rural Health Association	Support	No

Comments:

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My name is Hokulani Porter and I work at Nanakuli Health clinic, a satellite clinic of WCCH and am a benefactor of SLRP. I graduated from UH Mānoa in 2012 with a FNP degree and this

program helped me to afford to work at a FQHC , which pays less than private practice, without worrying about the extra costs of student loans. Now I am able to continue to serve my community for several years to come and have escaped the need to look for a higher paying job since I no longer have student loan debt collecting interest.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

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

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!

February 8, 2016

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 11, 2016. 1:45 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Senate Bill 2388
Testimony in Support

I am writing to express my strong support of SB2388 to increase funds for loan repayment programs for healthcare professionals working in underserved areas. As a family medicine physician practicing in a rural area and as a medical director who works hard to recruit doctors to this rural area, I know what a great attraction loan repayment programs are. Three years ago I lost a good family medicine physician candidate to another health system because that health system provided loan repayment and I could not. One of my family physician colleagues told me he recently interviewed a candidate with \$400,000 in student loan debt. Without a loan repayment program, that candidate would never choose to practice in a higher cost of living area.

The current estimated physician shortage in the state is over 600 doctors and that is expected to more than double by 2020. We are behind the eight ball with regards to the physician shortage in this state and we need to deploy every tool we have to begin to address this problem. Loan repayment is one of the fastest and most cost effective ways to attract physicians to underserved and rural areas.

I urge you to pass SB2388.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Apoliona, M.D.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Cc: serenity.chambers@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2388 on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:56:25 AM
Attachments: [Support for SB2388.docx](#)

SB2388

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for HEA/CPH on Feb 11, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
serenity chambers	lanai community health center	Support	No

Comments:

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Written Testimony in Support of SB2388
HEA/CPH Committee, Room 224
February 11, 2016 at 1:45pm

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!