

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

TO:

<u>COMMITTEE ON HEALTH</u> Senator Josh Green, Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2015 TIME: 1:35 p.m. PLACE: Conference Room 414

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

#### Re: SB 308 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

#### **Position: SUPPORT**

This measure appropriates funds to implement the Hawaii health corps loan repayment program.

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



# SB 308, Relating to the Hawaii Health Corps Loan Repayment Program Senate Committee on Health Hearing—February 13, 2015 at 1:35 PM

### Dear Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to take this opportunity to provide our support for SB 308, which would provide funding for the Hawaii health corps loan repayment program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

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 to solving our shortage issues, especially for our underserved communities. Providing financial assistance to students 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. A loan repayment program will support efforts to fill in gaps in the state's healthcare workforce and will also benefit our underserved communities. We ask for your strong support of SB 308.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

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.



**Senate Committee on Health** The Hon. Josh Green, Chair The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

### Testimony on Senate Bill 308 <u>Relating to Hawaii Health Corps Loan Repayment Program</u> Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director February 13, 2015, 1:35 pm, Room 414

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports Senate Bill 308, which allocates monies to help address the shortage of primary care clinicians in rural Hawai'i and other underserved areas. We believe the state-based loan repayment program will provide much-needed incentives to help primary care clinicians choose to practice where they are most needed, including neighbor islands and other rural areas.

We urge you to pass this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov		
To:	HTHTestimony		
Cc:	joyamarshall0416@gmail.com		
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB308 on Feb 13, 2015 13:35PM*		
Date:	Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:00:22 PM		

## <u>SB308</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2015 Testimony for HTH on Feb 13, 2015 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	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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