

**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**

Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
Conference Room 414  
1:15 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 406, Appropriates funds for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation primary care training program at Hilo Medical Center. Appropriates moneys.**

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

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) fully supports SB 406, 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

**Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)**  
Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i & City & County of Honolulu

February 2, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO**  
**PRESIDENT, HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**  
**ON**  
**SB 406, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**  
**PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM**  
Committee on Health  
Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Green and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 406, relating to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as President of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC).

SB 406 is part of the 2015 HSAC Legislative Package and provides funding in the amount of \$2,800,000 for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program. Although this program will be based in Hilo, physicians will be trained to provide medical assistance to critical rural underserved areas across the State.

Access to health care is a significant issue in Hawai'i, especially for residents living in rural areas. Recognizing the shortage of healthcare providers, particularly in primary care, the Hilo Medical Center in partnership with the Hawai'i Health System Corporation developed a Primary Care Training Program to address this shortage and improve access to healthcare for the residents of the State of Hawai'i. This may also encourage physicians to continue their practice here in our islands.

For the reasons stated above, HSAC is in strong support of SB 406 and asks for your favorable support. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



MEL RAPOZO  
President, HSAC

AB:mn



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

117 Keawe Street, Suite 205  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2851  
Phone: (808) 935-7178  
Fax: (808) 961-4435  
E-mail: [admin@hicc.biz](mailto:admin@hicc.biz)  
[www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

3 February 2015

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Miles Yoshioka

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Craig Takamine  
Barry Taniguchi  
Misti Tyrin  
Carol VanCamp  
William Walter  
Noreen Yamane

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
Time: 1:15PM  
Place: Conference Room 414, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Support of SB 406**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY  
CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

**RE: Support for SB 406**

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Chuck Erskine and I am the President of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce. With more than 230 member businesses and over 500 member representatives, the Chamber serves as an important voice of business in Hawai'i. The Chamber **strongly supports** the strengthening of the state's 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 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 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.

**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 406.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chuck Erskine



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

**SB 406, Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program**  
**Senate Committee on Health**  
**Hearing—February 4, 2015 at 1:15 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 my support for SB 406, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program.

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 in Hilo. That is why I 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.*



## **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

### **NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE: Wednesday, February 04, 2015  
TIME: 1:15 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 appropriates funds for the 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 TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM**

Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

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

I, **Dan Brinkman**, Interim CEO East Hawaii Region HHSC, am in full support of 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.

**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, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

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

I, **Darrel D. Mosher Jr, Respiratory Care Supervisor**, am in full support of 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.

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

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](mailto:HTHTestimony)  
Cc: [ciAlohaAdvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:ciAlohaAdvocate@yahoo.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM  
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:45:45 PM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Iboshi	Zonta Club of Hilo	Support	No

Comments: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Senator Josh Green, Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair NOTICE OF HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2015 TIME: 1:15PM PLACE: Conference Room 414 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Support of SB 406 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM. The Zonta Club of Hilo supports SB 406. 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. 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 SB 406, to ensure a responsive health care system for future generations on the Neighbor Islands. Thank you. Charlene Iboshi  
Advocacy Chair, Zonta Club of Hilo

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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**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dnishioka@cuhawaii.com](mailto:dnishioka@cuhawaii.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:06:41 AM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darren Nishioka	Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

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Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

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Senator Gil Riviere

Senator Mike Gabbard

**NOTICE OF HEARING**


Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

 member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of 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.
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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  
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Members

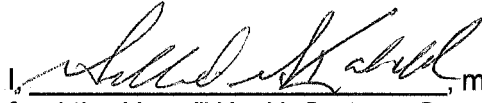
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I, Glenn Wakai, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

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Senator Josh Green, Chair  
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Members

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Senator Mike Gabbard	

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State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
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I, Sheralyn K. Kalua member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask them to support the Hawaii 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**

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Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker	Senator Sam Slom
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Senator Mike Gabbard	

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Jane P. Carney, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of 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.

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I, Carmen Brown, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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I, Nancy Abraham, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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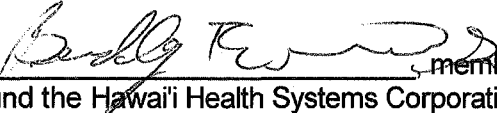
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I, Bryon Hany, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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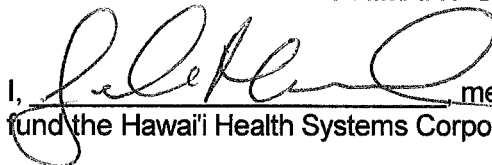
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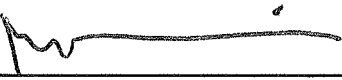
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Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing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

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- 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.

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

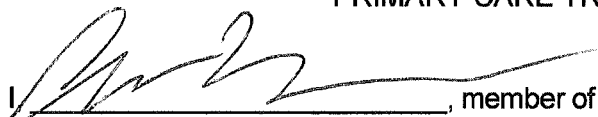
Members

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

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

  
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I, Leo W. Hui III, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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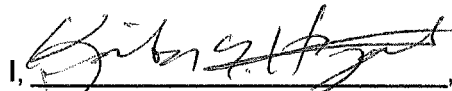
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RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Carlton Bell, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of 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.

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, *Keoni K. Kawai*, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Geri Kelle, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
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I, Jacqueline DeSe-Sturabo, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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I, Debra Lynn Alatan, member of UPW Section 8, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
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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:** [Nicole Ward](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 406  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:53:00 AM

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Nicole E. Ward, RN am in full support of 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.

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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, February 4, 2015  
TIME:    1:15PM  
PLACE:    Conference Room 414  
            State Capitol  
            415 South Beretania Street

**Support of SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING  
PROGRAM.**

***Bernard A. Balsis, Jr., President  
Independent Employers Group Federal Credit Union***

As member of Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii Island, *I* resolve to strengthen the state's 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 providers practicing throughout the islands. *I* 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* 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 SB 406. Thank you.




**From:** [Carol Jennings](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 406 to fund the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 02, 2015 1:23:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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I fully support the following Senate Sill 406 and believe it can strengthen the hospital in many different ways. To ensure that more doctors will be available in and around Hilo, Bill 406 would create a much needed healthcare faculty and sustain life. If the government is willing to see this island sustain its people for long lasting generations to come, they would support such a bill.

Sincerely,

  
  
Human Resources Secretary III  
East Hawai'i Region, HHSC  
Hilo Medical Center  
1190 Wai'anuenue Avenue  
Hilo HI 96720  
[cjennings@hhsc.org](mailto:cjennings@hhsc.org)  
Phone: 808.932.3164  
Fax: 808.974.6831

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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, February 4, 2015  
TIME: 1:15PM  
PLACE: State Capitol, Conference Room 414

**Support of SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING  
PROGRAM.**

***Barry Taniguchi, President and Chair of Community First***

As a resident of East Hawaii and member of Community First, a non-profit on Hawaii Island, I, Barry Taniguchi, resolve to strengthen access to primary care through the HHSC Primary Care Training Program (HHSCPCTP). Community First's vision is a community where we all help each other care for our well-being. We seek to engage the whole community in changing the idea of healthcare from treating disease to caring for health and well-being and in creating a sustainable healthcare system.

Investing in training family practice residents in the neighbor islands is expected to yield meaningful returns:

- Increasing the number of family practice physicians is expected to decrease the number of potentially avoidable hospitalizations
- In rural areas of the state greater access to family medicine physicians is projected to lower the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions such as diabetes and coronary heart disease which have reached epidemic proportions in Hawaii County
- 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 HHSCPCTP uses an advanced team model of care delivery. The current predominant model of care involves one primary care physician caring for 2,000-2,500 individuals with a small staff. The team model of care in which the HHSCPCTP is training Hawaii's future providers allows one physician and her team to care for up to 10,000 patients.

I believe that HHSCPCTP will help to develop a clinical and financial model of primary care delivery that can be adopted by private practice physicians that will enable them to care for more patients and at the same time improve both their satisfaction and compensation.

It is documented that more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice in this setting after they completed their residency. In East Hawaii we hope to increase this probability by helping residents develop relationships with their colleagues and the community while a part of HHSCPCTP.

I urge you to pass SB 406. Thank you.



**HAWAII ISLAND**  
Family Medicine Residency

**Kristine I McCoy, MD, MPH**

*Director*

*HHSC Primary Care Training Program*

45 Mohouli Street

Hilo, HI 96720

(808) 932-4215

FAX (808) 933-9291

February 2, 2015

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

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

I, Kristine I McCoy, MD, MPH, Director of the HHSC Primary Care Training Program am writing to request your full support of SB 406 to fund said program.

Our program aims to go beyond filling the numerical gaps primary care physicians (family medicine, general internal medicine and pediatrics) which are presented to you in the *Report on the Findings from the Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment Project* prepared at your request by Dr. Kelley Withy. By training cost-effective multi-specialty teams, our program graduates will fill not only those positions, but also decrease the need for some of the specialty physicians elucidated in Dr. Withy's report which relies on mainland practice patterns with a fairly narrow scope of practice for primary care physicians. The depth and breadth of our training will allow this state to have excellent health care for its citizens, with fewer obstetrician-gynecologists, fewer neurologists, and fewer rheumatologists just to name a few examples.

We are currently enjoying your support this academic year. However, should it cease, I must point out that we have gained very little for the people of Hawaii. The training period of our family medicine physicians is 3 years; that of our advanced practice nurses and our health psychologists is 2 years. Thus, we seek sustainable funding that allows us to plan each year for accepting trainees into multi-year positions. Just this weekend, I had to make the decision to go forward with recruiting 4 more family physician trainees through the National Residency Match Program. This was a difficult ethical decision as the community consequences to pulling back due to financing concerns were met by the explicit commitment of three years of support

Hilo Medical Center  
1190 Waiānūenue Ave. Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2020  
Phn: 808-932-3000 Fax: 808-974-4746

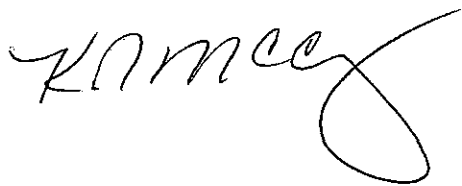
inherent in entering the Match and the possibility of derailing 8 young physicians' careers should the program have to close. We are going ahead, with the strong conviction that you will share with us the value of providing significant funding to us in the start of phase of this program and long term support as needed.

To be clear, we are seeking other ongoing sources of support. Local fund raising continues in Hilo, and we have received one federal grant to support a small amount of our activities and are in the midst of applying for 2 more with our academic partners. We will also be submitting the first set of program cost reports to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid at the end of this calendar year and expect to begin receiving some federal Graduate Medical Education funds in late 2016. We are also working with our payers to improve the payments received for the clinical services that we provide. However, with an overwhelming majority of our patients being insured either through the Medicare or Medicaid programs, we do not expect clinical reimbursements to ever be able to subsidize our educational costs.

Lastly, I would like to bring your attention to the Hawaii Medical Education Council (HMEC) and the Hawaii Medical Education Fund (HMEF). It has been suggested by the Council in its 2015 report to you, that Hilo Medical Center be added to the council and that the funding for the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program at Hilo Medical Center be directed to that fund. We agree in principle that having a coordinated program of supporting graduate medical education and health professions education, especially for primary care in Hawaii is an excellent idea. As such, we are open to amendment of the authorizing legislation for the HMEC and HMEF as well as SB 406 and HB847 and HB195 as long as we are assured that a reorganized Hawaii Medical Education Fund will take into consideration the needs of the neighbor islands and our program's focus on meeting those needs.

Again, thank you very much for the financial support critical to the HHSC Primary Care Training Program this fiscal year. We respectfully ask that this support be continued to allow us to meet our obligations both to the community and to the trainees already enrolled and expected to begin their training with us in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. M. C.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Council Chair  
Mike White

Vice-Chair  
Don S. Guzman

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Michael P. Victorino

Councilmembers  
Gladys C. Baisa  
Robert Carroll  
Elle Cochran  
Don Couch  
Stacy Crivello  
Riki Hokama



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
www.MauiCounty.us

February 2, 2015

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Michael P. Victorino, Treasurer   
Hawaii State Association of Counties

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2015; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB406, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation primary care training program at the Hilo Medical Center.

I am aware the president of the Hawaii State Association of Counties has submitted testimony on behalf of HSAC, in support of this measure, which is in the HSAC Legislative Package. As the treasurer of HSAC, I concur with the testimony submitted by the president, and urge you to support this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:15legis:15testimony:sb406\_paf15-23a\_mkz

**From:** [Daniel Belcher](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB406  
**Date:** Monday, February 02, 2015 3:50:50 PM

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Dear Sirs,

I strongly support funding of the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program. This is an excellent way to bring new doctors to the rural areas of the state which need more doctors. As a physician from Hilo I see the need for more doctors now and in the near future. Having the doctors train in Hilo is a very good way to encourage them to practice in one of the most underserved areas in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,  
Daniel H. Belcher, MD.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mgariando@hpsc.org](mailto:mgariando@hpsc.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 02, 2015 4:05:39 PM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Gariando	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This program is greatly needed in our rural area. It will help bring doctor's to our community.

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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, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.



I, **David W. Camacho, Jr., MD, East Hawaii Regional Board Member**, am in full support of 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. This group includes Hawaii physicians who have returned home to train in Hawaii and practice here. 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. I also participate in training the residents with weekly radiology rounds.

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:** [cvancamp3@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cvancamp3@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 02, 2015 2:58:33 PM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

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

Comments: It is critical to our island communities that we continue this residency program so that we can attract doctors who will practice in Hawaii

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rkurohara@gmail.com](mailto:rkurohara@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 6:34:56 AM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

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

Comments: I am in support of fully funding the HHSC PCTP. This innovative and much needed resource is a key and proven program that will help Rural Hawaii with recruiting and retaining doctors.

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**From:** [Elena Cabatu](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 406  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:58:30 AM

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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, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

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

I, Elena Cabatu, Community Relations Manager at Hilo Medical Center, am in full support of 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.

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*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

February 3, 2015

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

Dear Senator Green and Committee members,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 406. I would also like to thank you for your support of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program in past years.

Over time, 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 the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Greggor Ilagan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Greggor' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Ilagan'.

Greggor Ilagan  
Council Member

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Christine Takahashi fully support SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

There are currently four residents in our Primary Care Training Program with more on the way once the second class begins. There is a high probability they will remain in the community and provide critical shortage needs now and in the future. The program needs to continue to help Hawaii realize the benefits of the program:

- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating four 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.
- Greater access to family medicine physicians especially in rural areas.
- Additional physicians in Hawaii means each additional physician is expected to generate five 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.

Christine Takahashi



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, February 4, 2015  
TIME:    1:15PM  
PLACE:    Conference Room 414  
            State Capitol  
            415 South Beretania Street

**Support of SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING  
PROGRAM.**

**HARRY YADA, Member of the East Hawaii Regional Board**

As member of the East Hawaii Regional Board of HHSC, I am resolved to strengthen the state's 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 providers practicing throughout the islands. I 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 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 SB 406. Thank you.



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

117 Keawe Street, Suite 205  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2851  
Phone: (808) 935-7178  
Fax: (808) 961-4435  
E-mail: [admin@hicc.biz](mailto:admin@hicc.biz)  
[www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

3 February 2015

**Executive Officer**  
Miles Yoshioka

**2014-2015 Board**

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Craig Takamine  
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Misti Tyrin  
Carol VanCamp  
William Walter  
Noreen Yamane

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
Time: 1:15PM  
Place: Conference Room 414, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Support of SB 406**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY  
CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

**RE: Support for SB 406**

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Chuck Erskine and I am the President of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce. With more than 230 member businesses and over 500 member representatives, the Chamber serves as an important voice of business in Hawai'i. The Chamber **strongly supports** the strengthening of the state's 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 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



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

117 Keawe Street, Suite 205  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2851  
Phone: (808) 935-7178  
Fax: (808) 961-4435  
E-mail: [admin@hicc.biz](mailto:admin@hicc.biz)  
[www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

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.

**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 406.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chuck Erskine

COUNTY COUNCIL  
Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk  
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Telephone (808) 241-4188  
Fax (808) 241-6349  
Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 3, 2015

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
SB 406, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM  
Committee on Health  
Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Green and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 406, relating to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program, which was submitted by the Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC). My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Economic Development / Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

SB 406 is part of the 2015 HSAC Legislative Package and provides funding in the amount of \$2,800,000 for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program. Although this program will be based in Hilo, physicians will be trained to provide medical assistance to critical rural underserved areas across the State.

Access to health care is a significant issue in Hawai'i, especially for residents living in rural areas. Recognizing the shortage of healthcare providers, particularly in primary care, the Hilo Medical Center in partnership with the Hawai'i Health System Corporation developed a Primary Care Training Program to address this shortage and improve access to healthcare for the residents of the State of Hawai'i. This may also encourage physicians to continue their practice here in our islands.

For the reasons stated above, I support HSAC's position on this Bill and ask for your favorable support. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:mn



## *I Ola Lāhui*

### *Rural Hawaii Behavioral Health Program*

677 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 ∞ [www.iolalahui.org](http://www.iolalahui.org) ∞ phone (808) 525-6255 ∞ fax (808) 525-6256

February 3, 2015

#### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

#### **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

#### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

**I, Jill Oliveira Gray, Ph.D., Director of Training at I Ola Lahui Rural Hawaii Behavioral Health Training Program, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).**

I Ola Lāhui (IOL) is a scientist-practitioner training program whose aim is to provide generalist training to predoctoral psychology interns, as well as, specialty training in primary care and health psychology to deliver integrated, evidenced-based, and culturally-minded interventions for use in Hawai'i's rural and medically underserved communities.

We have had the distinct privilege of collaborating with the HHSC PCTP since 2012 in order to not only train but also retain health providers to work within the state of Hawaii and particularly in health care provider shortage areas. Thus far, IOL has trained 18 psychologists, 15 of whom continue to live and work in medically underserved areas throughout Hawai'i. Since 2012, we have had 5 of our psychology trainees and one licensed health psychologist supervisor train and provide direct clinical services at the Hawai'i Island Family Health Center (HIFHC) as part of the HHSC PCTP.

The HHSC PCTP experience received by our psychology trainees has exceeded our expectations on multiple levels, to include but not limited to, working alongside other health care disciplines to provide integrated primary care and behavioral health services in a rural, medically underserved community. Our trainees have absolutely benefitted from this training experience and cannot say enough positive things about the training, clinic, staff relations and patient experiences they have had during their rotations. We have multiple trainees express interests in staying on at the clinic with one in particular who is considering moving to this community when she becomes a licensed psychologist with hopes to be able to continue working at the clinic.

One reason HHSC PCTP is so exceptional is the inter-disciplinary training and service delivery provided which allows Family Medicine physicians, med students and residents, APRN's, Clinical Pharmacists, RN's and clinical health psychologists to work side by side to provide quality, comprehensive health care in a community with significant health

care provider shortages. The bi-directional learning that takes place between different types of health providers enhances the experience not only for the providers but ultimately improves service delivery for the patients through enhanced communication amongst providers and being able to have multiple health care needs attended to in one location. We are just getting ready to start up a Behavioral Health training didactic series for the HIHFC clinic staff as a way to continually enhance the inter-disciplinary training that occurs at HIFHC.

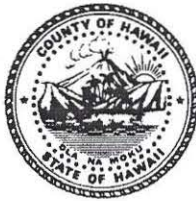
The HHSC PCTP and IOL share a similar mission to provide quality training for our related health disciplines and improve health care provider shortages. Our partnership has been successful for the past three years and this legislation is needed to continue partnerships such as this and secure the HHSC PCTP for the future of a healthy Hawai'i.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 406.

Sincerely,

Jill M. Oliveira Gray, Ph.D.  
Director of Training  
I Ola Lahui, Inc.  
677 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste. 904  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

February 3, 2015

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

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 406

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 the 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 \$2.8 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Onishi".

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi  
Hawai'i County Council Member



THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
TIME: 1:15PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Support of SB 406**  
**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 Directors, 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. 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.
2. Provide greater access to family medicine physicians in rural area of our state, lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions.
3. We recognize that the HHSCPCTP uses a 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 approximately 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 are aware from personal experience that 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. 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 and their Primary Care Physician and health care team. It is with the voice of the people from rural communities like ours that we support SB 406 that authorizes appropriation of funds for the HHSC Primary Care Training Program administered by the Hilo Medical Center.

We urge you to pass SB 406. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 406.

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Dr. Ka`ohimanu Lydia K. Dang Akiona, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

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, who lives in Nanakuli homestead and is a spry 90 years young. My father is a warehouse supervisor. His father was a tug boat engineer and his mother was a homemaker. My mother is a clerk at Safeway. Her father is retired from the Honolulu Police Dept and her mother was a postal worker, but passed from colon cancer at the young age of 48. I am the oldest of three, and a Kamehameha schools graduate, class of 1998. I stubbornly pursued concurrent bachelor's degrees in Hawaiian Studies and Cell and Molecular Biology while working several research and waitressing jobs. I was a part of the first Health Careers Opportunities Program cohort, and the 2000-2002 Minority Access to Research Careers program. I continued to do research in different settings including `Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network in 2005, 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 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 as a young researcher that there were too many holes in the net for patients to be loss to follow up. Probably 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.

It was also amazing to see 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 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. One early Sunday morning, I was alongside Dr. Ed Montell, a gastroenterologist who has been practicing for several decades. He had come in special to scope my patient, we were trying to

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

see why her hemoglobin kept dropping. "It comes with the territory," he laughed when I thanked him for coming in on the weekend. "It's good for you to reflect on that looking down the road 30 years."

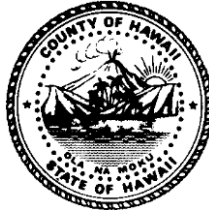
This resonated with me as I sat for dinner that night with my husband and my 4 year old daughter. This is important for me - these docs work constantly because there are not enough of them. We need more than 200 physicians on Hawai'i Island alone and over 800 physicians in this state. Today, we have an opportunity to ease this problem.

The PCTP can provide physicians, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners and psychologists for the State of Hawai'i for generations to come. As we 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 JABSOM graduates. 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.

As one fourth of the first intern class for the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program, I want to say thank you. Thank you for bringing me and my family home. I honor my family and those who have nurtured me into the person I have become by dedicating my life to serve my patients. I can tell you first hand that I am here to serve, but i have gotten so much more in return. I am so grateful to be a part of the Hilo Medical family and I am proud of the care that is given by our team..

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.

**Karen Eoff**  
Council Member, N. Kona  
Chair, Finance Committee



Phone: (808) 323-4280  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: keoff@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 3, 2015

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

Email: [HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Email: [sengreen@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengreen@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Email: [senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: **Testimony In Support of SB No. 406, Relating to The Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Training Program; Hilo Medical Center HTH Committee – Feb. 4, 2015, 1:15 p.m, Conf. Rm. 414, State Capitol**

Dear Committee on Health and :

On behalf of myself and my constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, I would like to support the above referenced bill, and I hereby submit a brief testimony as follows:

The shortage of primary healthcare providers severely impacts the residents of our island, and a primary care training program can improve much needed healthcare. I agree that it would be in the best interest of our citizens that an appropriation be made to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program at the Hilo Medical Center.

Therefore, I strongly urge the enactment of SB406.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

---

KAREN EOFF, Council Member  
District 8, North Kona

**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 SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 02, 2015 8:12:57 PM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

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

Comments: THE TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2015 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Senator Josh Green, Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair NOTICE OF HEARING Feb 4, 2015 1:15 pm Conference Room 414 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406 HHSC Primary Care Physician Training Program I, Wayne Kanemoto, support requested funds be appropriated for the HHSC Primary Care Physician Training Program. Through the efforts of our communities throughout the state, funds were appropriated and released to conduct training for the first class of residents. The second class of residents are being recruited and will start this coming July. The process has started and funding from the state legislature is required to produce qualified physicians. The team approach is another feature that provides comprehensive health services that is more accessible, increases quality at a sustainable cost. We must increase the number of primary care physicians in the State of Hawaii to address the shortage. This not a rural problem, is it a state problem that affects all of us. I ask you to help the citizens of Hawaii by passing SB 406 with the funds requested.

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, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Mary K. Nordling, MD FAAFP, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

As member of Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency, I resolve to strengthen the state's 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 providers practicing throughout the islands. I 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

**Mary K. Nordling, MD**  
*Hawaii Island Family Health Center*  
45 Mohouli Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 932-4215  
FAX (808) 933-9291

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 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. We were very pleased to have over 560 qualified applicants apply to be part of our next class of 4 residents.

I have also witnessed first hand the impact that a residency training program can have on a community. In 1994, a family medicine residency training program was started in Lawrence to help serve one of the poorest communities in Massachusetts as they were having difficulty attracting doctors. I worked at the Lawrence Family Medicine Residency from 2001-2013 and knew it grew from humble beginnings and now has expanded to eight clinics with over 100 clinicians who care for almost 50,000 patients. Residents stayed on after graduation to continue to care for their patients, faculty were attracted to the mission which in turn attracted stronger and stronger medical students. Lawrence was awarded the Society for Teachers of Family Medicine Program Innovation Award in 2012. The cycle there continues and my hope in moving to Hilo is to be a part of something similar.

I strongly urge your support for SB 406.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Nordling, MD FAAFP  
Faculty  
Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency

Hilo Medical Center  
1190 Waianuenue Ave. Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2020  
Phn: 808-932-3000 Fax: 808-974-4746

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dnishioka@cuhawaii.com](mailto:dnishioka@cuhawaii.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:37:34 AM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darren Nishioka	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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**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Dr. Natalie Kehau Kong, am in full support of SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

On Friday, January 23, 2015 I appeared on the front page of the Hawai'i Tribune Herald along with Dr. Ka'ohimanu Dang Akiona who is also testifying here today. The article, along with one published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on January 20th talked about the severe doctor shortage in Hawai'i. Dr. Akiona and I provided the faces and real stories 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 several 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 helping caring for our people again.

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:** [lrantz@hhsc.org](mailto:lrantz@hhsc.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB406 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 03, 2015 1:05:30 PM

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**SB406**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Rantz	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Obtaining a primary care doctor in Hawaii is difficult; if not impossible. The aging population of our current PCPs will result in more residents going without health care or forced to utilize emergency services at an excessive cost to both the individual and state.

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, February 4, 2015  
TIME:    1:15PM  
PLACE:    Conference Room 414  
            State Capitol  
            415 South Beretania Street

**Support of SB 406  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING  
PROGRAM.**

**RYAN KADOTA, KADOTA LIQUOR/MANAGER**

As member of The Japanes Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii, I resolve to strengthen the state's 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 providers practicing throughout the islands. I 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 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 SB 406. Thank you.