

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

159

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2017

RE: S.B. No. 1078  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Higher Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 1078 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to try to alleviate the shortage of primary health care providers in Hawaii by appropriating funds to the loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Hawai'i System, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, The Queen's Health Systems, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, 'Ohana Health Plan, AlohaCare, Lāna'i Community Health Center, Hawai'i Pacific Health, Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians, Hawai'i Psychological Association, Hawaii Medical Service Association, and sixteen individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Medical Board.

Your Committees find that Hawaii is facing a shortage of over five hundred doctors, and that this shortage threatens the health of Hawaii residents and cumulatively affects the State's healthcare costs. Your Committees further find that access to



care in rural and underserved areas of Hawaii is especially concerning, as these areas have been the most significantly affected by the shortage of primary and behavioral healthcare providers.

Your Committees recognize the increasingly high education costs for healthcare professionals and the need for the State to make efforts to attract healthcare professionals to practice in Hawaii. Currently, the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Manoa administers the only loan repayment program available in the State to healthcare professionals. Your Committees find that healthcare professionals who have benefited from the loan repayment program serve in communities across the State, including Waianae, Hilo, and Wailuku. Your Committees note testimony submitted by the University of Hawai'i System indicating that because federal funding for the program requires a local dollar-for-dollar match, without financial support from the State the program will not be able to reapply for the federal grant and the loan repayment program will end.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language to clarify that the loan repayment program referred to is the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program and deleting the reference to psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists benefitting from the program because those professions are not included in section 309H-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which establishes the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program;
- (2) Inserting a blank appropriation amount; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.


Your Committees note that although the appropriation amount has been removed, the recommended appropriation for the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program is \$250,000.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Higher Education that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1078, as amended



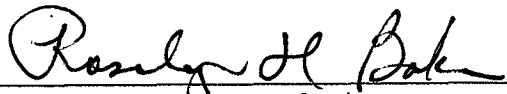
herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1078, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Higher Education,



---

KAIALA'I KAHELE, Chair




---

ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**  
**CPH**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB1078	CPH/HRE, JDL	2/7/17		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)				/
CHANG, Stanley	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les				/
KIDANI, Michelle N.	/			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">Original</span> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">Yellow</span> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">Pink</span> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">Goldenrod</span> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">File with Committee Report</span> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">Clerk's Office</span> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">Drafting Agency</span> <span style="margin-left: 40px;">Committee File Copy</span>				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

