

HB916 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

Report Title: Health Care Professionals; Loan Repayment; Appropriation (\$)

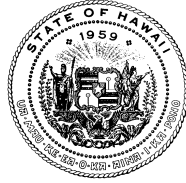
Description: Makes an appropriation for the health care professionals loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine. (HB916 HD1)

Companion: SB1078

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH/HRE, WAM

Introducer(s): BELATTI, BROWER, EVANS, JOHANSON, KOBAYASHI, LOWEN, MCKELVEY, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, TAKUMI, Yamashita



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB916 HD1
RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER WOODSON, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR KAIALII KAHELE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Hearing Date: March 16, 2017 Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined general fund appropriation to the Department of Health.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports a loan repayment program for
3 health care professionals to increase provider supply and access to care in rural and underserved
4 areas, and recognizes the leadership of the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University
5 of Hawaii at Manoa in assuring the success of this resource.

6 The department defers to the University of Hawaii on the sufficiency of an appropriation request,
7 and so long as it does not replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dllr.director@hawaii.gov

March 16, 2017

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair,
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair,
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017
Time: 1:35 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 414, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 916 HD1 Relating to Loan Repayment for Healthcare Professionals

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB916 HD1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Health to fund the loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The program provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists who agree to work in a federally-designated health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

The Department supports this bill provided its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request.

II. CURRENT LAW

Act 166 (SLH, 2015) established the Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Advisory Board (§371-19.2) to advise DLIR on strategies for developing the healthcare industry workforce. The Advisory Board was an outgrowth of Healthcare Skill Panels*

convened in 2010 among 150 healthcare professionals and educators to identify skill shortages and recommend strategies to reduce or avoid the shortages.

Advisory Board members include DLIR as Chair and representatives from the Department of Health, University of Hawaii, Community College, Center on Nursing, and health professionals.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

Reducing the tremendous burden of student debt will encourage more health professionals to continue working in underserved areas and thereby help reduce the pressing need for healthcare workers in those areas.

For this reason, the Department supports this bill as an effective strategy to address shortages in the healthcare workforce in underserved areas, provided sufficient funds are appropriated and its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request.

* <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2013/01/Healthcare2020Report.pdf>



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiiopsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

Testimony in Support of HB 916, HD 1 Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals Wednesday, March 16, 2017, Conference Room 414

Honorable Chairs Baker and Kahele, Honorable Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and the Committee on Higher Education,

The Hawai'i Psychological Association strongly supports HB 916, HD 1 regarding student Loan Repayment.

Hawai'i psychologists understand how crucial it is to support new professionals who want to stay in Hawai'i and help our people. We are all too aware that graduate education is expensive, and high student loan costs combined with the high cost of living in Hawai'i can price young professionals out of our practice community. We believe that student loan repayment programs will help keep much-needed professionals in Hawai'i. We are pleased that this bill supports psychologists as well as psychiatrists and other mental health professionals.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 916, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Folen, Ph.D., ABPP
Executive Director
Hawai'i Psychological Association



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and
Higher Education

Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 1:35 p.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean

and

Kelley Withy, MD, Professor, Department of Complementary and Integrative Medicine
Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Director

John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 916 HD1 – RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Chairs Baker and Kahele, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 916, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Biennium Budget. This measure permits continuation of the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai'i. This program is possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match. Funds have been provided in the past from HMSA, Queens, AlohaCare, University Health Alliance, Ohana Health Plan, Maui Memorial, Lāna'i Community Health Center and Kalihi Palama Health Center. However the funds provided are not enough to maintain the program. Without State support, Hawai'i will not be able to reapply for the grant, and the program will end.

Hawai'i has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers as the graph below demonstrates. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawai'i do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. The Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program has helped 25 providers since its inception in 2012. Of the program graduates, 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawai'i.

In 2016, 64% of John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) residents and fellows had a current student loan burden. The average student loan indebtedness of our JABSOM MD residents/fellows is \$235,000, with some residents having loans in the \$300,000-600,000 range. These loans, with average minimum monthly payment of \$500, begin repayment while in residency training, in addition to the high cost of living, rent and other living expenses. The high cost of college and medical education results in large student loan debt -- which detracts from physicians choosing primary care specialties and choosing to practice in underserved or rural communities.

If a physician does his or her medical school AND residency (or Graduate Medical Education or GME) training here in Hawai'i, about 80% of them stay in Hawai'i to practice. Having loan repayment options tied to commitments to serve in neighbor-island, rural and underserved populations will help to reduce the physician shortages in those areas. The loan repayment program has played an important role in bringing needed physicians and healthcare providers to underserved areas.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawai'i and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

HB 916 differs from its Senate companion, SB 1078 (which did not cross over) in that SB 1078 renamed the program to the Hawai'i Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program and deleted the references 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 Hawai'i Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. Currently, through the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program JABSOM provides loan repayment to psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai'i in addition to physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. We prefer the language of HB 916 which would enable JABSOM to provide loan repayment to a range of healthcare providers, all of which are needed in underserved areas throughout the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAI'I ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and
Higher Education
March 16, 2017; 1:35 pm

HB 916 Relating to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program

Aloha Chairs Baker and Kahele, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and committee members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii. This program is possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match. Funds have been provided in the past from HMSA, Queens, AlohaCare, University Health Alliance, Ohana Health Plan, Maui Memorial, Lanai Community Health Center and Kalihi Palama Health Center. However the funds provided are not enough to maintain the program. Without State support, Hawaii will not be able to reapply for the grant, and the program will end.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment program has helped 25 providers since its inception in 2012. Of the program graduates, 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

President, Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians

95-390 KUAHELANI AVENUE • MILILANI, HI • 96789
PHONE: 808-627-3244 • FAX: 808-627-3262



March 16, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 414

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senate Committee on Higher Education

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

Chair Kaiali'i Kahele
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

From: Paige Heckathorn
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support
HB 916 HD 1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 180 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committees for the opportunity to **support** HB 916 HD 1, which would provide funding to help students who are educated in Hawaii in the medical field receive help repaying their loans after graduation. This measure is important because it will encourage these students to stay and practice in the state. It is critical that we invest in programs to develop and retain providers here in Hawaii so that we can start to address the shortages that are particularly problematic on our neighbor islands.

This funding will create new opportunities for students in the state and provide needed incentives to strengthen the workforce. For example, it has been shown that of physicians who receive their medical degree and their training here in Hawaii, 80 percent will stay and practice in that community or one nearby. We are appreciative of attempts to direct funding towards effective and important programs such as this and humbly request your support for this measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 2:34 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB916 on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM*

HB916

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Hawaii Assoc. of Professional Nurses	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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dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org

The Community is our Patient -- men, women, children, uninsured, insured!

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and
House Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday March 16, 2017

Relating to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program

Aloha Kakou:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 916 HD1, which permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii. This program is possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match. Funds have been provided in the past from HMSA, Queens, AlohaCare, University Health Alliance, Ohana Health Plan, Maui Memorial, Lāna'ī Community Health Center and Kalihi Palama Health Center. However the funds provided are not enough to maintain the program. Without State support, Hawaii will not be able to reapply for the grant, and the program will end.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment program has helped 25 providers since its inception in 2012. Of the program graduates, 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 HD1 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health

E Ola nō Lāna'ī

LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNA'Ī

professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. You cannot continue to voice your concerns about health care provider shortages—if you do not fund this bill. Please, your vote in support of funding this program is the loudest 'voice' you can provide!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DVK' followed by a flourish.

March 16, 2017; 1:35 pm
Conference Room 414

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Higher Education

To: Senator Kaialii Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: HB 916, HD1 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of HB 916, HD1 which requests an appropriation for the healthcare professionals loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii plays a vital role in addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals in the state. Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 25 healthcare providers since

the program began in 2012. To date, 2/3 of those providers continue to work in underserved communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 1:37 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: ecabatu@hhsc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB916 on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM

HB916

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments: Please accept support for HB 916 on behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation consisting of Hilo Medical Center, Ka`u Hospital, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua in Honoka`a and our nine specialty clinics.

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 QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Kaialii Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education

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

Date: March 16, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committees on Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health &
Higher Education Joint Hearing; Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 1:35pm in Room 414

**Re: Support for HB 916, HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care
Professionals**

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). We would like to express our **support** for HB 916, HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. This bill makes an appropriation for the health care professionals loan repayment program administered through the John S. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The loan repayment program provides financial assistance to certain health care workers who agree to work in a federally-designated health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

At QHS, we support our local students and graduates who would like to live and work in Hawaii through internship and residency programs. In FY 2015 we spent \$14.4 million in education and training to support current and future health care professionals in the community. It is evident that the high cost of living in Hawaii, coupled with the prospect of having to pay back student loans, creates a real barrier for students who may be interested in pursuing a career in rural or medically underserved areas of the state. Hawaii currently experiences a shortage of over 500 physicians and almost all other types of primary and behavioral health care workers particularly in rural and underserved areas. Providing financial assistance to students interested in health care careers is one way that we can start to address this issue.

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

We ask you to support the health care professionals loan repayment program. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

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.



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and
Higher Education
March 16, 2017; 1:35 pm

RE: HB 916 Relating to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program

Aloha Chairs Baker and Kahele, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and committee members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii. This program is possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match. Funds have been provided in the past from HMSA, Queens, AlohaCare, University Health Alliance, Ohana Health Plan, Maui Memorial, Lanai Community Health Center and Kalihi Palama Health Center. However the funds provided are not enough to maintain the program. Without State support, Hawaii will not be able to reapply for the grant, and the program will end.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment program has helped 25 providers since its inception in 2012. Of the program graduates, 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David S. De Luz, Jr.
Vice President

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The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

THE STATE SENATE

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Thursday, March 16, 2017; 1:35 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 916 HD 1
RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 916 HD 1, which makes an appropriation for the health care professionals loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

The current shortage of doctors is a national problem today, and this shortage has affected essentially all of the states, including Hawaii. In fact, we have had recent assessments made of the doctors' and other health care professionals' shortage in Hawaii, which reflects an acute situation approaching a crisis. This is particularly true for the neighbor islands and other rural areas that are currently underserved.

For example, this has already affected injured workers, under the workers' compensation system preventing them from accessing immediate medical treatment. A delay in providing medical treatment, usually leads to greater medical impairment, which does not help any party.

Given the limited number of doctors providing care on Kauai, there is currently no psychiatrist or psychologist who is willing to treat workers who sustain industrial injuries. This prevents injured workers, suffering from injuries involving psychological health conditions, from accessing medical care on the island. We need to be able to effectively address the shortage of doctors throughout the State. This will help all residents in Hawaii have access to better medical care.

The loan repayment program administered by the John A. Burns School of Medicine is the only program of its kind in our State. It is one of the necessary tools, to adequately address the doctor shortage situation over the long term.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 916 HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns on this matter.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Kaialii Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education

From: Gerard Akaka, MD, Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 13, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committees on Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health &
Higher Education Joint Hearing; Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 1:35pm in Room 414

Re: Support for HB 916, HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

My name is Gerard Akaka, MD, and I am a physician and the Vice President of Native Hawaiian Affairs & Clinical Support at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **strong support** for HB 916, HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. This bill makes an appropriation for the health care professionals loan repayment program administered through the John S. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The loan repayment program provides financial assistance to certain health care workers who agree to work in a federally-designated health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

As a parent who helped put my children through college, I'm keenly aware of the debt burden that is incurred during training. The student loans are similar to house payments in other states. New health professionals must also use a substantial part of their income to pay for housing in Hawaii. I'm concerned that our new graduates will struggle to live in Hawaii and remain hopeful that some or many might be helped by loan repayment assistance or else they may leave for job opportunities the mainland.

I ask you to support the health care professionals loan repayment program and pass HB 916, HD1.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

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.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Finance

From: John Misailidis, MD, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 13, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committees on Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health & Higher Education Joint Hearing; Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 1:35pm in Room 414

Re: Support for HB 916, HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

My name is John Misailidis, MD, and I am a physician at the Queen Emma Clinics at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **support** for HB 916, HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. This bill makes an appropriation for the health care professionals loan repayment program administered through the John S. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The loan repayment program provides financial assistance to certain health care workers who agree to work in a federally-designated health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

Queen Emma Clinics is the primary teaching clinic for the University of Hawaii Internal Medicine Residency Program. We take care of a primarily underserved population, and act as a safety net. We supervise medical students and resident physicians, many of whom become the future physician workforce of Hawaii. I am a mentor and advisor for these students and resident physicians. Some desire to practice in rural areas of Hawaii, or with the underserved population, and I strongly encourage them to do so. Unfortunately, most resident physicians decide against this career path.

The burden of student loans, high cost of living, and the relatively lower income working in these areas act as barriers. Physicians who decide to work in rural areas, or with the underserved, often do so at significant financial disadvantage, and risk not being able to pay off their student loans.

By supporting HB 916, HD1, you would provide considerable incentive for physicians to work in these high need areas, and to help take care of Hawaii's most vulnerable patients. Please vote in favor of HB 916, HD1.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 1:56 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: doug@shipmanlawhilo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB916 on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM

HB916

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglass Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Baker, Chair Kahele, and members of your respective committees, I strongly support the passage of HB916 HD1. Helping new doctors through loan repayment methods that also encourages their practice in needed geographic areas is a win-win solution for the problem of physician shortages in the state and Hawaii County. Mahalo for your consideration of this bill. respectfully, Douglass S. Adams Hilo, Hawai'i

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:11 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: kaburg@att.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB916 on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM*

HB916

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelley burg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and
Higher Education
March 16, 2017; 1:35 pm

HB 916 Relating to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program

It is my great pleasure to testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and other medical professionals who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii. This program is possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match. Funds have been provided in the past from HMSA, and other organizations. However the funds provided are not enough to maintain the program. Without State support, Hawaii will not be able to reapply for the grant, and the program will end.

As we all know Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources. **From personal experience** I can confirm that one of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. Of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program graduates, 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. **The benefit of this program to both the provider, and the state as a whole, cannot be overestimated.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:04 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: robert.mchale@monarchnc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB916 on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM

HB916

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert McHale M.D., M.Sc.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I wish to support the loan repayment bill (HB916), being a physician from North Carolina I look for options for medical student loan repayment. It does affect and influence my thoughts process and physicians desire to work in underserved communities. Programs such as this are of high value and yield satisfaction from the physician and their family. Thank you for your time and enjoy your day. Respectfully, Robert

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 6:22 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: eckrothkr@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB916 on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM*

HB916

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Eckroth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and
Higher Education
March 16, 2017; 1:35 pm

HB 916 Relating to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program

Aloha Chairs Baker and Kahele, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and committee members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii. This program is possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match. Funds have been provided in the past from HMSA, Queens, AlohaCare, University Health Alliance, Ohana Health Plan, Maui Memorial, Lanai Community Health Center and Kalihi Palama Health Center. However the funds provided are not enough to maintain the program. Without State support, Hawaii will not be able to reapply for the grant, and the program will end.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment program has helped 25 providers since its inception in 2012. Of the program graduates, 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Erica Davis
Hawaii AHEC Associate Director
Email: davisel3@hawaii.edu

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and Higher Education
March 16, 2017

HB 916 Relating to the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program

Aloha Chairs Baker and Kahele, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Kidani, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB916**, which provides loan repayment for primary care and behavioral health practitioners in Health Professions Shortage Areas within Hawaii.

Legislators should view this measure as an indirect subsidy of our Community Health Centers, which provide primary care services for many of the neediest residents in our state. In some neighbor island locales, the Community Health Center might be the only source of primary care services for the mainstream population as well as the indigent.

Many of Hawaii's Community Health Centers struggle to recruit and retain high quality practitioners, as the salaries that they offer are often significantly below what primary care and behavioral health providers can obtain in other clinical settings. And with the changes in reimbursement strategy recently adopted by the Federal Government and our local insurance companies, this salary gap will only widen. HB916 offers a partial fix for this challenge.

Without State support Hawaii will not be able to continue a program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. And more strikingly, of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, two-thirds are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii. This is clearly a worthwhile measure that deserves your vote.

Thank you for allowing me to testify

David Sakamoto
(808) 589-8081
dtsret@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:48 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mkaleikini@ormat.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB916 on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM

HB916

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Mar 16, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Kaleikini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chairs Kahele and Baker, Vice Chairs Kidani and Nishihara, and members of the committees. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 916. The continuation of the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program is critical for the wellbeing and health of Hawai'i residents. Hawai'i has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Many people of Hawai'i will be at a significant disadvantage to their healthcare needs without these healthcare workers. HB 916 requests \$250k for loan repayment for the above mentioned healthcare professions. This will ultimately result in about 15 – 20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawai'i. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.

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