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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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LATE

February 7, 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

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

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

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

Re: S.B. No. 1078 Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB 1078 proposes to appropriate \$250,000 to the Department of Health to fund the loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine to provide 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 a Healthcare Skill Panel* 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 SENATE BILL

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.

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.

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



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

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Committee on COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senators Rosalyn h. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 7, 2017, Conference Room 224

The Hawai'i Psychological Association supports SB1078 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 hopeful that this bill supports psychologists as well as psychiatrists.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 1078.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Folen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Hawai'i Psychological Association



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Late

February 7, 2017

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Re: SB 1078 – Relating to the Hawaii Health Corps Program

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1078 which makes an appropriation for the Hawaii Health Corps to be expended to the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine.

HMSA is acutely aware of the issue of access to health care, especially in rural and underserved areas of the state. The Hawaii Health Corps' mission is to provide loan repayments to graduates who agree to practice in rural areas lacking appropriate providers. We are supportive of such efforts to develop appropriate health care services in these communities.

We support this worthy program and hope that the Committees see fit to pass this measure.

Thank you for allowing us to provide testimony in support of SB 1078.

Sincerely,

Mark K. Oto
Director, Government Relations.

February 7, 2017; 2:00 pm
Conference Room 224

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

Senate Committee on Higher Education

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone
Chief Nurse Executive, Hawaii Pacific Health
Chief Executive Officer, Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: SB 1078 – Testimony in Support

My name is Art Gladstone and I am the Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH), and the Chief Executive Officer of Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic and Hospital. 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.

HPH is writing in **support** of SB 1078 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.



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

LATE

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

Date: February 2, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Higher
Education Joint Hearing; Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:00pm in Room 224

Re: Support for SB 1078, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

My name is Gerard Akaka, MD, and I am the Vice President of Hawaiian Affairs at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **support** for SB 1078, 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.

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
February 7, 2017; 2:15 pm
By

Deborah Peters, PhD

SB 1078 –RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB1078, which permits continuation of the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment program that supports research on the supply and demand of physicians in Hawai'i, as well as, interventions to recruit physicians and increase career satisfaction of practicing physicians. Currently, the program is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017. If the Hawai'i State Legislature does not act on this, all the activities mentioned above will end.

It is clear that Hawai'i has a shortage of physicians, as well as, other health care providers, including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physical therapists. Continuing the physician workforce assessment will help in these ways:

Providing Continuing Medical Education for health care providers.

Recruiting new providers on the website www.ahec.hawaii.edu.

Creating the Health Career Navigator and supporting activities to recruit students into health careers, such as, those at www.ahec.hawaii.edu.

Supporting state efforts to get expanded federal designations of Health Professions Shortage Areas.

Providing support for 13 physicians to receive loan repayment for working in underserved areas.

Providing support for the Hawai'i Ho`okipa Program, a welcoming program for newly arriving providers to get them integrated into the community where they work.

Supporting training for medical students in rural areas.

Creating a Rural Health Coordinator at the University of Hawai'i that will work with all health students working in rural areas to increase opportunities and track the impact of the rural training programs.

Continuation of the Physician Workforce Assessment program will cost the physicians of Hawai'i \$60 every other year and will allow for continuation of the above activities, as well as, the capacity to act rapidly when new ideas for solving the physician shortage are identified.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Deborah Peters, PhD
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