

SB1078

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

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

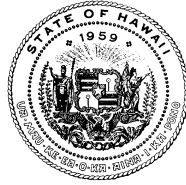
Description: Makes an appropriation for the health care professionals loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Companion: [HB916](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH/HRE, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, IHARA, K. KAHELE, KEITH-AGARAN, Nishihara



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of SENATE BILL 1078
Relating To Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 7, 2017

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$250,000 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.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2017

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
2:00 p.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1078, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE KAIALI'I KAHELE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Jone Geimer-Flanders, D.O., and I am an osteopathic physician member of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 1078, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. The Board has not had an opportunity to discuss this bill, but will do so at its next meeting on February 9, 2017. Therefore, the Board is not able to offer comments or a position on this bill at this time.

For the Committees' information, the companion bill, House Bill No. 916, was heard on January 31, 2017, by the House Committee on Health, and was passed with a House Draft 1, which: 1) replaced the \$250,000.00 appropriation with a blank amount; and 2) changed the effective date to July 1, 2090, for purposes of further discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 1078.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean

And

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

John A. Burns School of Medicine

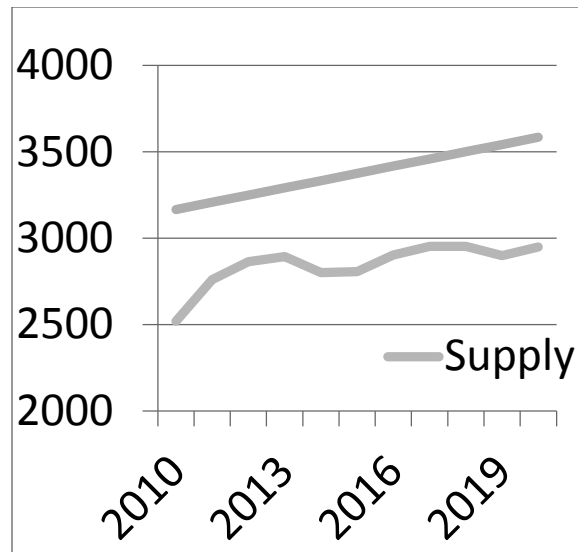
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1078 – 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 SB 1078, which 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.

SB 1078 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAII STATE CENTER FOR NURSING

Connecting Nurses. Transforming Healthcare.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
February 07, 2017 at 2:00 PM

by

Laura Reichhardt, NP-C, APRN, Director
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1078 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is writing to offer testify in **support** of SB1078, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

According to our most recent workforce supply study, nurse practitioners work in all areas of the state. Over one third of the APRN workforce works in an ambulatory care setting, and another third work in hospital settings across the state. This workforce has nearly doubled in the last 10 years and continues to grow.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai'i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawai'i will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing thanks you for your longstanding support of healthcare in Hawai'i, for the nurses who serve the people of this great state and for your favorable consideration of this measure.



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: February 2, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committees Committee 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 Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President 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.



February 7, 2017 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224

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
SB 1078, 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** SB 1078, which would provide \$250,000 in 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.



949 Kamokila Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Suite 350, Kapolei, HI 96707
808.675.7300 | www.ohanahealthplan.com

February 3, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair Rosalyn Baker
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Chair Kaiali'i Kahele
Senate Committee on Higher Education

From: 'Ohana Health Plan
Danny Cup Choy; Director, Government Affairs

Re: SB 1078, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals;
In Support
February 7, 2017; Conference Room 224

'Ohana Health Plan ('Ohana) is a member of the WellCare Health Plans, Inc.'s ("WellCare") family of companies and provides healthcare for Hawai'i residents statewide. Since 2009, 'Ohana has utilized WellCare's national experience to develop a Hawai'i -specific care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs. By focusing on the state's Medicaid and Medicare population, 'Ohana serves Hawaii's most vulnerable residents: low-income, elderly, disabled, and individuals with complex medical issues. Our mission is to help our members' lead better, healthier lives.

'Ohana Health Plan offers our **support** of SB 1078, makes an appropriation for the health care professionals' loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

It is no secret that we face a provider shortage in our state. Supporting healthcare professionals, particularly those who serve Hawaii's underserved populations, through a loan repayment program is an incentive to encourage more growth in this vital job sector. We support this bill as a key initiative to help with Hawaii's provider shortage, which will hopefully result in greater access to quality care for all of our state's residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



February 7, 2017
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

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

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

From: Laura Esslinger, Chief Executive Officer
Paula Arcena, Chief Customer Officer
Rachel Wilkinson, Public Policy Analyst

Re: SB1078 Relating to loan repayment for health care professionals

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to testify **in support** of SB1078 which makes an appropriation for the health care professionals' loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

AlohaCare is a non-profit, Hawaii based health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's community health centers. We serve Medicaid and Medicare Special Needs beneficiaries in all counties.

The Hawaii Student Loan Repayment Program, which began in 2012, was designed to increase the number of primary care providers in medically underserved areas in Hawaii. To date, 25 healthcare providers have benefited from the loan repayment program. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, two-thirds are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

Many providers have a heart to serve those who live in underserved communities. Reducing their student loan debt helps keep them in Hawaii and allows them to continue to serve those in medically underserved areas instead of pursuing primary care careers somewhere else.

SB1078 will reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for more than 30 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.

LĀNA'Ī COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142
Lāna'ī City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-6919
Fax: 808-565-9111
dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org

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

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

Diana M V Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE
Executive Director, Lāna'ī Community Health Center

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 of 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. So if you don't act on this all the activities will end!

It is clear that my community has a shortage of physicians, as well as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical therapists and many other healthcare providers. Continuing the physician workforce assessment will help in these ways:

Providing Continuing Medical Education opportunities.

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.

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

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

E Ola nō Lāna'ī

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

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.

Support training for medical students in rural areas.

Creation of a Rural Health Coordinator at University of Hawai'i that will work with all health students working in rural areas to increase opportunities and track 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 capacity to act rapidly when new ideas for solving the physician shortage are identified.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. V. H.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: SB 1078 – 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 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.



HAWAI'I ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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

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 of 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. So if you don't act on this all the activities will end!

It is clear that my community has a shortage of physicians, as well as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical therapists and many other healthcare providers. Continuing the physician workforce assessment will help in these ways:

Providing Continuing Medical Education for me.

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.

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

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

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.

Support training for medical students in rural areas.

Creation of a Rural Health Coordinator at University of Hawai'i that will work with all health students working in rural areas to increase opportunities and track 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 capacity to act rapidly when new ideas for solving the physician shortage are identified.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD, President HAFP



HAWAII STATE CENTER FOR NURSING

Connecting Nurses. Transforming Healthcare.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 07, 2017 at 2:15PM**

**by
Susan Lee, BSN, RN, WCC**

SB 1078 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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

Susan Lee is writing to offer testify in **support** of SB1078, which supports the Hawai`i State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai`i.

According to our most recent workforce supply study, nurse practitioners work in all areas of the state. Over one third of the APRN workforce works in an ambulatory care setting, and another third work in hospital settings across the state. This workforce has nearly doubled in the last 10 years and continues to grow.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai`i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawai`i will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawai`i.

[INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION] thanks you for your longstanding support of healthcare in Hawai`i, for the nurses who serve the people of this great state and for your favorable consideration of this measure.



HAWAII STATE CENTER FOR NURSING

Connecting Nurses. Transforming Healthcare.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 07, 2017 at 2:15PM**

by

Joanna Smith , MSN, RN, MBA, SSGB, RT, (R), (CV), (M), HIT-Pro, DNP-c

SB 1078 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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

I, **Joanna Smith**, am writing to offer testify in **support** of SB1078, which supports the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai'i.

According to our most recent workforce supply study, nurse practitioners work in all areas of the state. Over one third of the APRN workforce works in an ambulatory care setting, and another third work in hospital settings across the state. This workforce has nearly doubled in the last 10 years and continues to grow.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai'i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawai'i will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawai'i.

I thank you for your longstanding support of healthcare in Hawai'i, for the nurses who serve the people of this great state and for your favorable consideration of this measure.



Joanna Smith , MSN, RN, MBA, SSGB, RT, (R), (CV), (M), HIT-Pro, DNP-c

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 2:00 pm

By

Carolyn Ma, PharmD.

SB 1078 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Baker (CCPH), Chair Kahele (Higher Education) and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of SB 1078 which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

SB 1078 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 allowing me to testify.



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

Date: February 6, 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 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 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.

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 SB 1078, 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 SB 1078.

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 Hawaii'i.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:05 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: lenora@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1078 on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM

SB1078

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Lenora Lorenzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am writing in support of SB1078, which supports the Hawai`i State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai`i. According to our most recent workforce supply study, nurse practitioners work in all areas of the state. Over one third of the APRN workforce works in an ambulatory care setting, and another third work in hospital settings across the state. This workforce has nearly doubled in the last 10 years and continues to grow. With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai`i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawai`i will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawai`i. Mahalo for your support.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 07, 2017 at 2:00PM
by
Dr. Linda Beechinor APRN-Rx**

**SB 1078 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE
PROFESSIONALS**

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

I am writing to offer **support** to SB1078, regarding the Hawai`i State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral healthcare professionals who work for non-profit organizations. Currently I work with the homeless mentally ill population in Honolulu, having graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa nurse practitioner program twenty years ago. I benefitted from government grant programs to help nurse practitioner students with education costs at that time, and am very grateful for the opportunities my education has afforded me, to work with populations of need in our community.

Thank you for your longstanding support of healthcare in Hawai`i, for the nurses who serve the people of this great state, and for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC
500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E
Honolulu Hawaii USA 96825

phone (808) 779-3001

e-mail: L.Beechinor@hawaiiantel.net

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:19 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: annes@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1078 on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM

SB1078

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Scharnhorst	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Baker, Vice Chairs Kidani and Nishihara, and members of the committees: I am writing to offer testify in support of SB1078, which supports the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai'i. According to our most recent workforce supply study, nurse practitioners work in all areas of the state. Over one third of the APRN workforce works in an ambulatory care setting, and another third work in hospital settings across the state. This workforce has nearly doubled in the last 10 years and continues to grow. With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai'i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawai'i will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawai'i. Thank you for your longstanding support of healthcare in Hawai'i, for the nurses who serve the people of this great state and for your favorable consideration of this measure.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

x

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 of 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. So if you don't act on this all the activities will end!

It is clear that my community has a shortage of physicians, as well as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical therapists and many other healthcare providers. Continuing the physician workforce assessment will help in these ways:

Providing Continuing Medical Education for me.

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.

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

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

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.

Support training for medical students in rural areas.

Creation of a Rural Health Coordinator at University of Hawai`i that will work with all health students working in rural areas to increase opportunities and track 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 capacity to act rapidly when new ideas for solving the physician shortage are identified.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

Patricia McKenzie

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 of 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. So if you don't act on this all the activities will end!

It is clear that my community has a shortage of physicians, as well as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physical therapists and many other healthcare providers. Continuing the physician workforce assessment will help in these ways:

Providing Continuing Medical Education for me.

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.

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

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

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.

Support training for medical students in rural areas.

Creation of a Rural Health Coordinator at University of Hawai'i that will work with all health students working in rural areas to increase opportunities and track 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 capacity to act rapidly when new ideas for solving the physician shortage are identified.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 3:09 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1078 on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM*

SB1078

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 07, 2017 at 2:15PM
by
Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FP-BC**

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of SB735, which supports the Hawai`i State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai`i.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai`i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawai`i will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawai`i.

SB735 provides loan repayment for the above listed health professions to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This debt reduction will allow for over 30 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.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:07 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: nuyolks@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1078 on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM

SB1078

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Yokouchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: These students need financial incentives to enable them to complete their schooling and practice. Without incentives, possibility of losing potentially excellent practitioners greatly increases.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 2:46 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1078 on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM

SB1078

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for CPH/HRE on Feb 7, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Baker, Vice Chairs Kidani and Nishihara, and esteemed members of the committees: Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1078, which supports the Hawai`i State Loan Repayment program. This program is critical to allow healthcare providers to receive reimbursement to repay educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai`i. Per the Hawai`i State Center for Nursing's most recent workforce supply study, Nurse Practitioners work in every area of the state with over one third of the APRN workforce works in an ambulatory care setting, and another third working in hospital settings across the state. Nursing's workforce doubled in the last 10 years and continues to grow. With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai`i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However, without State support, Hawai`i will not be able to continue this program which helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawai`i. Mahalo for your committee's longstanding support of healthcare in Hawai`i and the nurses who serve the people of this great state. I request favorable consideration of SB 1078. Teresa Parsons, MA, MN, APRN-BC

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



HAWAII STATE CENTER FOR NURSING

Connecting Nurses. Transforming Healthcare.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 07, 2017 at 2:15PM**

by

Patricia McKenzie, **APRN**

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

SB 1078 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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

[INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION] is writing to offer testify in **support** of SB1078, which supports the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and social workers who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawai'i.

According to our most recent workforce supply study, nurse practitioners work in all areas of the state. Over one third of the APRN workforce works in an ambulatory care setting, and another third work in hospital settings across the state. This workforce has nearly doubled in the last 10 years and continues to grow.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawai'i, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawai'i will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawai'i.

[INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION] thanks you for your longstanding support of healthcare in Hawai'i, for the nurses who serve the people of this great state and for your favorable consideration of this measure.