



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and
Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
February 7, 2017 at 2:15 p.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean

and

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

John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 735 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of SB 735, which seeks an appropriation to implement and administer the Hawai'i health corps program. The importance of the program is that it provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists and social workers who agree to work in a federally designated professional shortage area or in an area in the state found to be underserved.

Hawai'i 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 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.

In 2016, 64% of the John A. Burns School of Medicine's (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 health professional shortage areas and among underserved populations will help to reduce the healthcare professional shortages in those areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376
www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

FROM:
HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Dr. Christopher Flanders, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

TO:
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2017
TIME: 2:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol

HB 735
Position: Support

The Physician Workforce Assessment estimated that in 2015, Hawaii faced a physician shortage of about 655 FTE's that will increase to 800 FTE's across all specialties by 2020. An acute physician shortage will have a profound impact on health care access, quality and costs, especially for native Hawaiians who are already underserved. With an average medical student debt for indebted graduates of \$160,000, debt plays a major role in career decisions and impacts the supply of our state's physicians.

Medical education remains the most expensive postsecondary education in the United States, with over one-third of all graduates carrying debt balances of more than \$200,000. This significant financial burden can have a considerable effect on students' choice of practice area. Although many students enter medical school planning to pursue family medicine, geriatrics or other careers in primary care, pressure arising from debt concerns often cause graduates to eschew these goals in order to pursue higher paying specialties. This high debt burden may dissuade students from attending medical school altogether, especially students from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. According to surveys of the American Association of Medical Colleges, under-represented minorities cited cost of attendance as the top deterrent to applying to medical school. With recent health reforms seeking to eliminate health care disparities amongst the U.S. population, increasing the number of minority physicians is important to ensure a work force more reflective of the general population.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Bernard Robinson, MD President-Elect – William Wong, Jr., MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD
Immediate Past President – Scott McCaffrey, MD Treasurer – Michael Champion, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



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The American Medical Association recommends:

- Making medical student loan interest rates variable and capped at no more than 5 percent
- Income tax exemptions for medical student scholarships
- Making medical student loan interest fully tax deductible for borrowers
- Creating more opportunities for debt relief through tuition assistance and loan forgiveness programs

Reducing medical student indebtedness promotes diversity within medicine and may contribute to a reduction in the shortage of primary care physicians. Fair, low interest rates, tax relief, tuition assistance, and loan forgiveness and repayment programs lower barriers to medical education for disadvantaged students. In addition, borrowers with less debt are more likely to begin careers in medical education and research, practice medicine in medically underserved areas, or enter careers in public health service.

The HMA supports access to medical care for underserved populations by providing student loan repayment options for primary care physicians serving in communities with limited access to health services.

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President – Bernard Robinson, MD President-Elect – William Wong, Jr., MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD
Immediate Past President – Scott McCaffrey, MD Treasurer – Michael Champion, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



February 7, 2017
2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

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

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

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

Re: SB735 Relating to the Hawaii Health Corps Program

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to testify **in support** of SB735 which appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii Health Corps 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.

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.

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. 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, two-thirds are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

SB735 provides loan repayment for the above listed health professions to 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.



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

February 3, 2017

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

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

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

Re: SB 735, Relating to the Hawaii Health Corps Program; **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 735, which appropriates funds for the implementation and administration of the Hawaii health corps program that provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social workers.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:47 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: jmisailidis@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB735 on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM

SB735

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HRE/CPH on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Misailidis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 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 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. 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, two-thirds are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii. SB735 provides loan repayment for the above listed health professions to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for over 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 allowing me to testify. Sincerely, Dr. John Misailidis Attending Physician, Queen Emma 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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**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 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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.



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

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

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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 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.

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.

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.

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

Ka`ohimanu Dang Akiona, MD, Chief Resident, Hawai`i Island Family Medicine
Residency Program, Hilo Medical Center, HHSC- East Hawai`i Region

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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
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.

With the clear shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best
methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. Nationwide, the
overwhelming burden of education-related debt has increasingly affected career
decisions, giving larger, urban sites an edge on recruitment of providers. As we
recruit and reach out to potential physicians, they often inquire about loan
repayment opportunities in particular. 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.

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

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

Erica Davis

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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 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.

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.

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

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

Jolene Muneno

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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 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.

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:16 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB735 on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM

SB735

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HRE/CPH on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Shaw	Lanai Community Health Center	Support	No

Comments: This program is critical to rural remote community health centers such as Lanai Community Health Center. Please support this bill.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:02 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: lenora@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB735 on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM

SB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HRE/CPH on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha, I am writing to 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. Mahalo for your support!

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

David Sakamoto

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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 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 areas, 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 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. SB735 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

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

Shanda Lewis, APRN (808) 389-2025
PO Box 971342, Waipahu, HI 96797

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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 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.

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.

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

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

Stephen Bradley MD

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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

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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.

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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 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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

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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.

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Thank you for allowing me to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:18 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: annes@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB735 on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM

SB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HRE/CPH on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM 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 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.

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Testimony in Support of HB735

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, as well as all other primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these providers, the people of Hawaii will not have ready access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute on the neighbor islands and in remote regions.

The fastest and most cost effective way of recruiting providers to areas of need is by paying back their loans in return for continuous service to that area.

My name is (Heather) Hokulani Porter and I am a FNP working out in Wai'anāe Coast Comprehensive Health Center. I am part-Hawaiian and born and raised on the West Coast.

Upon Graduation, I applied in vain to HRSA's loan repayment program twice to attempt to reduce my student loan burden. I was already an employee of WCCHC (a FQHC rural qualified health center) and I was turned down both times. What has been disheartening is meeting mainlanders who receive the HRSA awards and then once they've paid back their time allotment in exchange for their loan repayment award, they leave back to the mainland. In my 4 years at WCCHC, I already personally know of four mainland awardees that have already gone back to the mainland.

With little hope left, I applied for the SLRP loan-repayment plan and with the help of AHEC and Dr. Kelly Withe, I was awarded the funds and it has been a great relief. Had I not received the funds, my plan was to go to a bigger institution such as Kaiser or Queens that pay health providers better than rural health centers do. However, now that I no longer need to worry about the added expensive of the loan repayment, on top of Hawai'i's high cost of living, I can stay in my community and serve my fellow Native Hawaiians. It feels good to help my people navigate their paths toward improved healthier outcomes.

Please support HB735 and help local providers stay in Hawai'i to continue to serve their kupuna, keiki, 'ohana, friends and neighbors. Help us bring important health care providers to our rural areas and entice them to stay by removing the burden of student loans.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this matter. Please pass **HB 735!**

Hokulani Porter

Hokulani.porter@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:09 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: pulermq@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB735 on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM*

SB735

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HRE/CPH on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RuthMarie Quirk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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
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Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

LATE

February 7, 2017

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

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

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017
Time: 2:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

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

Re: S.B. No. 735 Relating to the Hawaii Health Corps Program

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB735 proposes to appropriate \$1,000,000 or so much as may be necessary for FY 2017 and FY 2018 to implement and administer loan repayments under the Hawaii Health Corps program by the John A. Burns School of Medicine. These loan repayments would be for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and social workers 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 (codified as §371-19.2) to advise the 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>



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February 7, 2017

LATE

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

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

Re: SB 735 – Relating to the Hawaii Health Corps Program

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 735 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 735.

Sincerely,

Mark K. Oto
Director, Government Relations.



February 7, 2017; 2:15 pm
Conference Room 224

Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

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

Re: SB 735 – 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 735 which seeks an appropriation to implement and administer the Hawaii health corps program. The importance of the program is that it provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists and social workers who agree to work in a federally designated professional shortage area or in an area in the state found to be underserved.

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.

In 2016, 64% of 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 Hawaii, about 80% of them stay in Hawaii to practice. Having loan repayment options tied to commitments to serve in health professional shortage areas and among underserved populations will help to reduce the healthcare professional shortages in those areas.

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

LATE

By: Hawai'i Academy of Family Physician

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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

We are writing to offer testify in **strong support** of SB735, 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.

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.

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

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD, President HAFP

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 5:13 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: vgiani@hhsc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB735 on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM

SB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HRE/CPH on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vincent Giani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health February 7, 2017; 2:15 pm By Vincent Giani, MD. First year resident at Hawaii Island Family Residency Program SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM 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 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. 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. SB735 provides loan repayment for the above listed health professions to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for over 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 allowing me to testify.

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

LATE

Deborah Peters, PhD

SB 735 –RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CORPS PROGRAM

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

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of SB 735, 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, two-thirds 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 will allow for over 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 allowing me to testify.

Deborah Peters, PhD
970 Kanakou Place
Honolulu, HI 96825
debeters70@gmail.com

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 2:49 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB735 on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM

SB735

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HRE/CPH on Feb 7, 2017 14:15PM 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 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 program is an excellent method to encourage providers to work in areas of our State's greatest 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. SB735 provides loan repayment for the above listed health professions to reduce the debt of healthcare providers working in areas of need. This debt reduction will facilitate 30 new healthcare providers each year working in underserved areas across Hawai`i to receive \$25,000 in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will go a long way to bring much needed healthcare resources to underserved communities. Mahalo for allowing me to testify in support of SB 735, and I urge you to give favorable consideration for this valuable legislation. 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.

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