



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1089 HD1
RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 26, 2019

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined General Fund appropriation.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully requests this measure
3 be deferred indefinitely.

4 DOH does not possess the expertise to conduct a useful comparison of foreign medical
5 certification requirements, federal immigration laws, and financial aid proposed by HB1089
6 HD1. There are existing professional, licensing, and community standards of practice over
7 which the department has little or no regulatory authority, and as a result, there is little practical
8 value in requesting DOH propose alternatives.

9 In lieu of a comprehensive pilot program, the department recommends the Legislature examine
10 funding scholarships for residents interested in attending foreign medical schools in exchange for
11 a commitment to serve in Hawaii.

12 Residents should also be encouraged to pursue other high value non-physician educational
13 programs offered locally such as Advanced Practice Registered Nurse credentials. APRNs in
14 particular have demonstrated commitment to rural and underserved communities and their
15 residents that contribute to a more efficient distribution of scarce clinical resources.

16 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

17



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Professor & Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael S. Bruno, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1089 HD1 – RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

HB 1089 HD1 requests the Department of Health to conduct a study as to the feasibility of establishing a pilot program to provide state financial support to Hawai'i residents to attend a college of medicine in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawai'i after graduation. The University of Hawai'i is committed to providing opportunities for students from Hawai'i to become physicians and to increase the number of physicians in Hawai'i to help address the growing physician shortage in Hawai'i. We **support** the current version of HB 1089 HD1.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has at its heart, a mission to train highly qualified physicians who will serve the people of Hawai'i by providing excellent healthcare. Workforce analyses have demonstrated that the medical students most likely to practice medicine in Hawai'i are those who have lived most of their lives in our state and have family ties that serve as an inducement to remain in Hawai'i. Thus, to meet its mission, JABSOM must first attract Hawai'i's best college seniors (or previous college graduates) and if accepted, induce these accepted applicants to matriculate at JABSOM. The most effective method to recruit accepted applicants is through scholarships. To that end, JABSOM has crafted a tuition support program that functionally serves as a scholarship and may be awarded for part or all of a student's tuition at JABSOM. In return for tuition support, students are required to practice in Hawai'i after completing the needed additional training for medical licensure and specialty certification. The proposed state funding (as currently described in HB 1089 HD1 for Hawaii students to attend medical school) could be used by JABSOM through its tuition support program for those students who do attend JABSOM.

HB 1089 HD1 provides for a program similar to JABSOM's that could potentially lead to an increase in the size of JABSOM's entering medical school class as is needed to help close the physician shortage gap in Hawai'i. We are in support of the proposed funding as currently described in HB 1089 HD1, given the ability to apply it to the JABSOM incoming class each year and welcome the opportunity to be part of the dialogue.

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

HB-1089-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:30:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Absolutely support these types of bills to help reduce our critical physician shortage

HB-1089-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:38:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Skjold	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I write to ask for your closer consideration of this bill. Evidence globally suggests such scholarship programs only work if the medical professional is from the area where they will work. In these cases, funding makes it possible for someone from the community to become highly trained and serve their community long-term in the future. They are likely to return and stay because of their connections.

When the funding is offered widely or not well defined, it is likely to be a waste of funds and further degrade stressed medical care systems. For example, if a rural community is served by a doctor who stays only for their 3 or 5 year commitment, and does not wish to be there or stay there, that community will always have rotating, less experienced, and less committed doctors, who sometimes do not have a good understanding of those they treat. This results in continued poor health outcomes, similar in unintended consequences to some failed mainland teacher recruitment programs. Community outcomes will rarely improve with inexperienced and rotating professional staff.

I would fully support this bill if scholarship support was provided for qualified students from the areas where the commitments would need to be fulfilled, and hope it would allow them to train at medical schools across the country before returning home.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration and action to help effectively address our shortage of medical professionals.

Suzanne Skjold

LATE

HB-1089-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:57:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan B Burdick	Kupuna Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports this bill, as it would promote an increase in the number of new physicians in the state. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Alan B. Burdick

Caucus chair

LATE

HB-1089-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 6:58:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kendrick Farm	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Support,

February 26, 2019

LATE

The Honorable Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
State House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

I am testifying in full support of **House Bill 1089 HD1 Relating to Medical Education** which will be heard by the committee on Finance (FIN).

HB 1089 HD1 directs the State Department of Health to conduct a study for the development of a pilot program that would provide state financial support to Hawaii residents wishing to pursue a doctor of medicine degree in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawaii after they graduate.

This bill addresses the state's acute physician shortage which is estimated to be as high as 700 doctors by the Year 2020. A good number of our doctors are nearing retirement age, while others are choosing to relocate to the mainland due to declining reimbursements, the high cost of doing business in Hawaii and other factors.

Enrollment at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine's during the 2016-2017 academic year was 280 students. One way to boost enrollment would be to add faculty or expand facilities, both of which are expensive measures.

HB 1089 HD1 is a less expensive alternative and attractive option for Hawaii residents who wish to pursue a medical education in foreign countries like the Philippines. This bill would subsidize their education and requirement them to return to Hawaii to practice medicine in their home communities.

Based on the merits of this bill, I therefore respectfully ask that your committee pass **HB 1089 HD1** which is one way to reduce our state's physician shortfall, particularly in rural and underserved areas on the neighbor islands.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Cortes
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