



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, Dean

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

And

Dr. Michael Bruno

Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Research

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1404 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404 SD2 HD1 together with a request for a minor amendment as discussed below.** SB 1404 SD2 HD1 permits continuation of the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawai'i or in a geographic area of Hawai'i found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match.

We request that the bill be amended by deleting the words “Hawai'i” and “rural” in Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19. The purpose of JABSOM's loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawai'i. While some of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. Therefore, the reference to the Hawai'i rural loan repayment program is somewhat misleading. The loan repayment the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) has successfully administered for the past 12 years is known as the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program.

Hawai'i has a shortage of just under 800 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 through loan repayment.

The Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program has helped 43 health care providers since its inception in 2012. Currently, the Loan Repayment Program supports 20 providers in Hawai'i. Of the program graduates, almost 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawai'i.

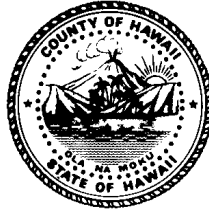
In 2016, 64% of JABSOM residents and fellows had a current student loan burden. The average student loan indebtedness of our JABSOM MD residents/fellows is \$235,000, with some residents having loans in the \$300,000-\$600,000 range. These loans, with average minimum monthly payment of \$500, begin repayment 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 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.

Through SB 1404, we request \$370,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions as we have those funds available to us. 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 20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawai'i and receive at least \$35,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. Without state matching funds, the program will end.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 27, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 1404, SD2, HD1 Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

The shortage of health care providers in Hawai'i has been well documented, by all accounts is getting worse, and is of major concern. It appears that a program of loan repayment is currently in operation and is working to attract providers to federally designated health professional shortage areas, and to geographic areas of Hawai'i found to be underserved.

The House Committee on Lower and Higher Education seems to have narrowed the scope of SB 1404 substantially. Unless there is a flaw in the program of which I am unaware, I hope that your Committee will recognize the importance of this issue, see the value of the repayment program, and act favorably on something closer to SB 1404, SD2, while incorporating amendatory language proposed by JABSOM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 7:50:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Rantz	Hawaii State Rural Health Association	Support	No

Comments:



Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 28, 2019 3:00 p.m.

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

**IN STRONG SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
SB 1404, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT
FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support for this bill, SB 1404, SD2, HD1 with recommended amendments**. This bill appropriates funds for the health care provider loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (JABSOM); provided that the funds are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by a private or another public source.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing conducts biennial research on the nursing workforce supply. The most recent Hawai'i Nursing Supply Report, published in 2017, finds that advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) have grown 104% in 12 years, and are present all over Hawai'i, bringing primary care to the communities where people live and work. Further, 100% of APRNs on Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i Counties and nearly 5% of APRNs on Honolulu City and County work in HRSA defined Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs).

Additionally, the Center finds that the number of active and employed nurses across our island state is representative of each county's overall population. From this, we gather that nurses are well distributed and contributing to the care needs of the communities where they live and serve. Settings where nurses work include those with emerging or rapidly changing care models, physicians' offices and ambulatory care settings, community health, school health, and public health. However, the vast majority of RNs still work in hospital settings.

As complex care shifts into the community, our state will need to invest in workforce development efforts to refine, spread, and scale the emerging models to improve access to care in remote, underserved, and understaffed areas. This measure maximizes federal incentives to work in areas that are experiencing provider shortages or in geographic areas in Hawai'i found to be underserved.

We request that the bill be amended to include the proposed changes by JABSOM. These proposed amendments include deleting the words “**Hawaii**” and “**rural**” in **Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19**. The purpose of JABSOM’s loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawai‘i. While some of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. The loan repayment JABSOM has successfully administered since 2012 is known as the Hawai‘i State Loan Repayment Program.

Therefore, the Center for Nursing is in strong support of this loan repayment initiative and is in strong support for full funding of this initiative. **Additionally, the Center for Nursing asks the Committee to review JABSOM proposed amendments favorably.** Thank you for your strong support of health care professionals, access to healthcare in Hawai‘i, and healthcare equity for those in remote and underserved areas.



March 28, 2019 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Director of Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 1404 SD 2 HD 1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 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.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** this measure, which would provide funding for loan repayment at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to support various healthcare professionals who practice in underserved areas. Investing in our healthcare workforce is critical because of the shortage of professionals in a number of categories in Hawaii, including physicians and other critical allied professionals. This funding will help to alleviate that shortage by creating opportunities directly in the state to train our healthcare workforce. By training professionals in-state, we are more likely to keep them and their skills here, serving patients in Hawaii.

We are supportive of the legislature's efforts to direct funding towards effective and important programs that will help to ensure that residents have access to needed care.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 28, 2019; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 1404, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 1404, House Draft 1, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate an unspecified amount in general funds for fiscal year 2019-2020, and the same amount in general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, for the health care provider loan repayment program so long as no funds be expended unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from a private or another public source;
- (2) State that the Department of Health, in coordination with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawaii, be the expending agency; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 2052.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health by creating a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health, FQHCs experience even greater challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified health care professionals to service the ever-growing volume of patients.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1404, House Draft 1
Thursday, March 28, 2019, 3:00 p.m.
Page 2

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

This bill would provide additional State resources to enhance the the quality and stock of Hawaii's future healthcare workforce. **Accordingly, the HPCA strongly support this important measure.**

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

To:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Date: March 28, 2019
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Jerry Van Meter, MD, President
Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

SB 1404 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Loan Payment for Health Care Professionals
Position: SUPPORT

The Physician Workforce Assessment estimates 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.

The American Medical Association recommends:

- Making medical student loan interest rates variable and capped at no more than five percent (5%).

HMA OFFICERS

President – Jerry Van Meter, MD President-Elect – Michael Champion, MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD
Immediate Past President – William Wong, Jr., MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



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- 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 physicians.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Jerry Van Meter, MD President-Elect – Michael Champion, MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD
Immediate Past President – William Wong, Jr., MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB1404 SD2 HD1

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 3:00 pm, Room 308

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports SB1404 SD2 HD1, which would expand eligible health care professionals under the health care provider loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The shortage of health care providers, especially in rural areas of the State of Hawai'i, is due in large part to the considerable expense and subsequent student loan debt associated with completion of educational requirements for health care providers. Expanding the list of eligible health care professionals under the health care provider loan repayment program administered through JABSOM will provide a powerful incentive for health care providers to provide services in rural areas of Hawai'i. We are particularly grateful that psychologists are included in the current version of this bill as there is a shortage of licensed psychologists in our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Takishima-Lacasa, PhD
Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee

LĀNA'Ī COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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



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

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

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!** SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date).** Without State funding, this program will die.

We request that the bill be amended by deleting the words "Hawaii" and "rural" in Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19. The purpose of JAB-SOM's loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawaii. While some of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. Therefore, the reference to the Hawaii rural loan repayment program is somewhat misleading. The loan repayment JABSOM has successfully administered for the past 12 years is known as the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program.

Hawaii has a shortage of just under 800 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

E Ola nō Lāna'ī

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

the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is through loan repayment. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment program has helped 43 health care providers since its inception in 2012. Currently, the Loan Repayment Program supports 20 providers in Hawaii. Of the program graduates, almost 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

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 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.

Through SB1404, we request \$350,000 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 20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$35,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DMV Shaw', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

D M V Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACPE
Executive Director

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 7:48:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Rantz	Hilo Medical Center Foundation	Support	No

Comments:



March 27, 2019

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: SB 1404, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii at Manoa; provided that the funds are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by a private or another public source.

HMSA strives to improve the health of Hawaii and we believe that the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program is in line with that mission, by getting much needed care to the medically underserved rural areas of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Vice President, Government Relations



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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

From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The
Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 27, 2019

Hrg: House Committee on Finance Hearing; Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:00 P.M. in Room
308

Re: Support for S.B. 1404, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care
Professionals

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 1404, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 which makes an appropriation for the loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM); provided that the funds are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by a private or another public source. We also concur with the requested amendments from JABSOM that will ensure that providers who serve the underserved in urban areas have access to this program as well. Our Queen Emma Clinic (QEC), located at The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), is the primary safety net clinic for our unserved, uninsured and underinsured. 26% of the homeless patients seen at QMC are QEC patients and about 80% of QEC patients have government-sponsored insurance.¹ QEC also serves as a major training and teaching site for our JABSOM students and residents physicians.

The 2018 Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment estimated the current shortage for physicians to be over 500 physicians. Queen's supports our local medical students and graduates who would like to live and work in Hawai'i through internship and residency programs. In FY 2017 Queen's contributed approximately \$15.2 million in education and training to support current and future health care professionals in the community. 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

¹ QHS Business Development, Endowment-specific funding, Queen Emma Clinic (QEC)

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

disadvantage, and risk not being able to pay off their student loans. Providing financial assistance to students interested in health care careers is one way that we can start to address this issue. Loan repayment programs will support efforts to fill in gaps in the state's health care workforce and will also benefit our underserved communities.

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.

Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

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

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1
Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals**

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 which provides matching state funds for the health care provider loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). We also support the minor clarifying amendment offered by the JABSOM to delete the words "Hawaii rural" in reference to its loan repayment program.

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. The inclusion of APRNs, registered nurses and social workers adds health care professionals whose skill set is much needed. Hawaii has a shortage of almost 800 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 the neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is through loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 43 healthcare providers since the program began in 2012. To date, nearly 2/3 of those providers continue to work in underserved communities.

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

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:00:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Skow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

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We request that the bill be amended by deleting the words “Hawaii” and “rural” in Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19. The purpose of JABSOM’s loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawaii. While some of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. Therefore, the reference to the Hawaii rural loan repayment program is somewhat misleading. The loan repayment JABSOM has successfully administered for the past 12 years is known as the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program.

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in 2012. Currently, the Loan Repayment Program supports 20 providers in Hawaii. Of the program graduates, almost 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

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1. SB1404, we request \$350,000 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 20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$35,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Skow, MD

Psychiatrist

Kauai, HI

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!** I work as a Nurse Practitioner and can say with 100% certainty that this program keeps much needed health care professionals in Hawaii.

I graduated from UH Manoa's Graduate Nursing Program almost 2 years ago and the burden of high cost of living, high rent and housing costs, and student loans are a daily stress. Additionally, I will be marrying an Oahu-raised Nurse Practitioner who is also buried in student debt. We both want to stay at our jobs working along the Waianae Coast, but Federally-Qualified Health Centers struggle to offer competitive wages. The financial relief that this program provides does not only offer an opportunity for financial relief, it allows us to work in a job that we love while planning for our family's future here in Hawaii.

This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date).** Without State funding, this program will die.

We request that the bill be amended by deleting the words "Hawaii" and "rural" in Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19. The purpose of JABSOM's loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawaii. While some of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. Therefore, the reference to the Hawaii rural loan repayment program is somewhat misleading. The loan repayment JABSOM has successfully administered for the past 12 years is known as the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program.

Through SB1404, we request \$350,000 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 20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$35,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eve Teeter-Balin, APRN

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:08:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine JS Tsang, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment ForHealth Care Professionals

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!. SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date). Without State funding, this program will die.

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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 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.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emilie Sticklely, MD, FACOG'
OBGYN
Hilo, Hawaii

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:59:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1404. I have benefited from the program while working at Kalihi Palama Health Center as it made paying back student loans and working at KPHC an affordable option. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 8:09:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!** SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date).** Without State funding, this program will die.

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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.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joshua Evans, MD MPH

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 28, 2019 at 3:00 pm
By [Testifier Name/Position/Organization]

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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

My name is Warren Yamashita and I am a 2nd year resident at the Rural Hilo-based Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program. I am the newly elected Co-Chief Resident for our residency program and can attest to the value this loan repayment program adds to retaining our graduates in the areas of greatest need in our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!**. SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date)**. Without State funding, this program will die.

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Through SB1404, we request \$350,000 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 20 new healthcare providers

a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$35,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Yamashita', written in a cursive style.

Warren Yamashita

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 10:45:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Ammerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!. SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date). Without State funding, this program will die.

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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. I personally completed my training owing \$250,000.

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 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.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:33:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rhonda Roldan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and committee members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!** SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date).** Without State funding, this program will die.

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Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Rhonda Roldan

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 12:22:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Salvador	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to share my personal experience regarding loan repayment for healthcare professionals. I currently work in an underserved area and am receiving a scholarship that is helping me repay my school loans. I had been working in the community before receiving the scholarship. I am grateful to be working in such an underserved area because I have to opportunity to give back to my community. I have seen many healthcare professionals share in this opportunity which helps bring professionals into the community to work.

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!**. SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date)**. Without State funding, this program will die.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
Physician Workforce Researcher
University of Hawaii

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 11:04:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mai Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB1404, which permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health providers who work for nonprofit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii. This program is possible through a grant to John A. Burns School of Medicine from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match.

As a social work student who works alongside JABSOM students frequently as well as DNP students from UH, I have witnessed firsthand the stress students face when planning for their future and weighing the pros and cons. By passing SB1404, this will encourage students to consider practicing primary care in shortage areas. This bill will not only have a positive impact on primary care and behavioral health providers but also the communities who are affected by the physician shortage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mai Smith

Testimony for SB1404 from Judith Mikami, Molokai

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

Although I will not be able to testify in person, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1** so that Hawaii State Loan Repayment program can continue! SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but also requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date). Without State funding, this program will die.**

We request that the bill be amended by deleting the words “Hawaii” and “rural” in Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19. The purpose of JABSOM’s loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawaii. Although I live on a rural island, Molokai, many of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. Therefore, the reference to the Hawaii rural loan repayment program is somewhat misleading. The loan repayment JABSOM has successfully administered for the past 12 years is known as the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program.

Hawaii has a shortage of just under 800 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. I can attest that the shortage is most acute for those of us living in rural areas on neighbor islands, such as Molokai and Lanai, and we often survive with the bare and basic resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is through loan repayment. Statistics from the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program reveal that it has helped 43 health care providers since its inception in 2012. Currently, the Loan Repayment Program supports 20 providers in Hawaii. Of the program graduates, almost 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

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 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. Our Molokai community has benefitted from medical providers working here to pay off loans, so we strongly and humbly request that SB1404 be continued to have \$350,000 available for our healthcare providers to utilize in loan repayment and work in underserved areas such as Molokai.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:44:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:46:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:52:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support recommendations made by the Hawaii State Center for Nursing.

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 2:12:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Repaying student loans is a small enough incentive to doctors who are very much needed in these islands considering the pay here is so low compared to the mainland.

LATE

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!**. SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date)**. Without State funding, this program will die.

We request that the bill be amended by deleting the words “Hawaii” and “rural” in Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19. The purpose of JABSOM’s loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawaii. While some of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. Therefore, the reference to the Hawaii rural loan repayment program is somewhat misleading. The loan repayment JABSOM has successfully administered for the past 12 years is known as the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program.

Hawaii has a shortage of just under 800 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 through loan repayment. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment program has helped 43 health care providers since its inception in 2012. Currently, the Loan Repayment Program supports 20 providers in Hawaii. Of the program graduates, almost 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

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 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.

Through SB1404, we request \$350,000 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 20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$35,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Nicole Apoliona MD
Kula, Maui

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:24:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shaun Berry MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 1404, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 1404, SD2, HD1 so that this excellent program can continue!**. SB 1404, SD2, HD1 permits continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family counselors and nurses who work for non-profit organizations in federally designated health professional shortage areas of Hawaii or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved. This program is made possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar state match. **Please fund this at \$350,000 or higher to match the funds raised from federal and local sources (\$370,000 to date)**. Without State funding, this program will die.

We request that the bill be amended by deleting the words “Hawaii” and “rural” in Section 1 at page 3, line 7 and in Section 2 at page 3, line 19. The purpose of JABSOM’s loan repayment program is to educate, train, and facilitate health care professionals to work in medically underserved areas that have been designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas of Hawaii. While some of these underserved areas are in rural communities, many are not. Therefore, the reference to the Hawaii rural loan repayment program is somewhat misleading. The loan repayment JABSOM has successfully administered for the past 12 years is known as the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program.

Hawaii has a shortage of just under 800 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 through loan repayment. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment program has helped 43 health care providers since its inception in 2012. Currently, the Loan Repayment Program supports 20 providers in Hawaii. Of the program graduates, almost 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawaii.

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 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.

1. SB1404, we request \$350,000 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 20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$35,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Shaun Berry MD

LATE

SB-1404-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:29:39 AM

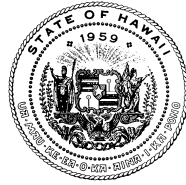
Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharilyn butteling	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this wonderful bill as I wan to stay in Hawaii!!!!!!!

Sharilyn Butteling PMHNP-BC



LATE

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

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1404 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 28, 2019

Room Number: 309

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified General Fund appropriation.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health concurs that loan repayment programs
- 3 encourage recruitment and retention of health care providers in rural and underserved areas.
- 4 DOH will continue to work closely with the John A. Burns School of Medicine and other
- 5 stakeholders on this program as well as other strategies that address Hawaii's provider shortage.
- 6 As of 2018, Hawaii is short approximately 750 physician full-time equivalents, as well as other
- 7 critical professions such as advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, and licensed
- 8 social workers. The inability to access care in a timely manner contributes to deferred treatment,
- 9 poorer outcomes, and increased costs.
- 10 The Department of Health defers to the John A. Burns School of Medicine on the sufficiency of
- 11 the appropriation, and notes that support is contingent on moneys not supplanting or replacing
- 12 requests in the Executive Budget.
- 13 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.
- 14