



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2254 HD1
RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 21, 2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Recommendation of \$500,000 general fund appropriation that requires a
2 dollar-for-dollar match.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure as drafted.
4 The State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) for health care professionals, which includes
5 physicians, nurse practitioners, clinical social workers, and psychologists, is an important
6 component of Hawaii's larger provider recruitment and retention strategy. Providers inclined to
7 remain in Hawaii to practice face cost-of-living challenges exacerbated by heavy student debt
8 burdens, and many find any amount of financial relief contributes to economic viability. More
9 often than not, program participants choose to attend to underserved populations and areas,
10 which adds greater value to their SLRP participation.

11 This program has demonstrated early success. A total of 46 recipients have received loan
12 repayment since program inception (2012), 42 of these through the federal program. The other 4
13 recipients are solo/small practice loan repayment recipients who receive(d) state and private
14 funding (no federal funding, but administered in the same way). The number of active contracts
15 has increased from 18 to 27. This program has encouraged a local hospital to start their own
16 loan repayment program, and inspired a non-federal solo and small practice loan repayment
17 program completely from local funds for providers in rural areas of need who do not have non-
18 profit status that has supported 4 additional physicians. The program has also been instrumental
19 in creating a system for administering philanthropic scholarships with a commitment of service

1 payback in Hawaii. Fourteen such scholarships have been awarded and the pay back
2 requirement will be administered by the staff with SLRP expertise.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

5

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321

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February 21, 2020

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

Date: Friday, February 21, 2020
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. No. 2254 H.D. 1 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT
FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB2254 HD1 proposes to appropriate unspecified amount of funds for Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program, which is administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

DLIR supports this measure provided it does not conflict with the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

II. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

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.

For this reason, 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 Supplemental Budget request.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 19, 2020

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

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

RE: HB 2254, 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, it 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.

A year ago, I was pleased to support SB 1404, which became Act 262. It seems to be substantially the same as today's bill, HB 2254, HD1. 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 HB 2254, HD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



February 21, 2020 at 1:30 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**
HB 2254 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 several 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.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance**

Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

by

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on HB 2254, HD1

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in strong support of loan repayment for health care professionals.**

In Hawai'i, health care professionals are in high demand yet in low supply, particularly on the neighbor islands and in rural areas. According to the 2017 Hawai'i State Center for Nursing workforce supply data*, 100% of advance practice registered nurses (APRNs) working in Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i counties worked in HRSA-defined medically underserved populations or areas. Nurses, including registered nurses (RNs) and APRNs, serve an important role in rural areas ensuring access to healthcare for all populations, vulnerable populations in particular. The Nursing Workforce Supply 2019 findings** indicate that a majority of RNs and APRNs serve, in a typical week, people in vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, are houseless, and/or insured under Medicare or MedQUEST.

Patients Served in Primary Practice Across All Settings	RNs	APRNs
Disabled	53.8%	64.8%
Houseless	53.5%	59.6%
Medicare or Medicaid	79.4%	88.3%
Opioid Addiction/Dependency	43.4%	42.1%
Transgender	28.9%	41.5%

However, accessing and completing healthcare education can be challenges for nurses. In 2019, the Center identified that RNs on neighboring islands without a face-to-face bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) program have lower rates of completing a BSN than nurses on O'ahu or Hawai'i Island. Further, the Center conducted a series of community conversations funded by the Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and identified that financial burdens including cost of education, student loans, and personal or family financial considerations are barriers for nurses to attain their goal degree. Student loan repayment is identified as one solution to support health care providers to serve in rural areas as well as attain their goal healthcare degrees which will then benefit the communities they serve.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing acknowledges the longstanding commitment of the Hawai'i State Legislature in supporting loan repayments for health care providers. Further, the Center **provides testimony in strong support of HB 2254, HD1 both for the intent of the measure and for full funding of \$500,000 for this initiative and asks the Committee to pass this measure as written.**

County Specific Data Tables Related to Care of Vulnerable Populations.

Registered Nurses who responded to the types of patients treated in their primary practice, in a typical week**:

<u>Types of Patients Treated in Primary Practice¹</u>	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Honolulu</u>	<u>Hawai'i</u>	<u>Mau'i</u>	<u>Kaua'i</u>
Disabled	53.8%	51.8%	59.7%	59.8%	56.0%
Houseless	53.5%	52.5%	56.1%	59.3%	51.2%
Medicare or Medicaid	79.4%	77.8%	86.0%	85.4%	81.2%
Opioid Addiction/Dependency	43.4%	41.2%	50.9%	52.0%	40.6%
Telehealth	28.9%	29.1%	30.6%	28.8%	23.2%
Transgender	11.9%	10.4%	24.3%	9.2%	10.6%

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who responded to the types of patients treated in their primary practice, in a typical week**:

<u>Types of Patients Treated in Primary Practice¹</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Honolulu</u>	<u>Hawai'i</u>	<u>Mau'i</u>	<u>Kaua'i</u>
Disabled	64.8%	64.1%	70.6%	65.0%	75.0%
Houseless	59.6%	58.7%	66.7%	55.0%	62.5%
Medicare or Medicaid	88.3%	87.3%	94.1%	95.0%	75.0%
Opioid Addiction/Dependency	42.1%	40.5%	49.0%	40.0%	50.0%
Telehealth	41.5%	42.1%	45.1%	35.0%	25.0%
Transgender	16.6%	15.4%	19.6%	15.0%	12.5%

Sources:

*Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, (2017). *2017 Nursing Workforce Supply Survey Special Report: Employment Location of APRNs.*

**Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (2019). *Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply 2019 Data Tables.*

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

Testimony of
Joy Barua
Senior Director, Government and Community Relations & Community Benefit

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

Friday, February 21, 2020
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Re: HB2254, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB2254. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Health to fund the health care provider loan repayment program administered through the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine. This program provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, nurse practitioners, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who agree to work in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS with COMMENTS HB2254

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 259,000 members. Each day, more than 4,500 dedicated employees and more than 600 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and providers come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i to care for our members at our 21 medical facilities, including Moanalua Medical Center, providing high-quality care for our members and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. Therefore, we recommend *inclusion of areas served by rural health clinics as part of underserved geographic areas*. Hawai'i has a shortage of about 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. In the last year approximately 150 physicians left the state, further contributing to the physician shortage. Without these doctors and other 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 underserved areas served by rural health centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1:30 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 HB 2254, 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 HB 2254, HD1 which would provide matching state funds for the health care provider loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii plays a vital role in addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals in the state. Hawaii has a shortage of approximately 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 46 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.

LĀNA'Ī COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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



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

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

Testimony Presented Before the House Committees on Finance Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2020

HB 2254 - Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 2254, which seeks state matching funds for the Hawaii Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Through HB 2254 \$500,000 is requested for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at

E Ola nō Lāna'ī

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

least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

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

Diana M V Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE]
Executive Director
Lāna'i City



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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

From: Rowena Buffett Timms, Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer, The Queen's Health Systems

Colette Masunaga, Manager, Government Relations & External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 19, 2020

Hrg: House Committee on Finance Hearing; Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. in room 308

Re: **Support for HB2254 HD1, 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 HB2254 HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the 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-to-dollar basis by a private or another public source. This program provides loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, nurse practitioners, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who agree to work in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

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 2019, Queen's contributed approximately \$16.4 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 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.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance**

**Hearing: February 21, 2020, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

By Hawaii – American Nurses Association (Hawaii-ANA)



**HB 2254, HD1 - RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS**

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J. K. Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of loan repayment for health care professionals.**

In Hawaii, health care professionals are in high demand yet in low supply, particularly on the neighbor islands and rural areas. According to 2017 Hawaii State Center for Nursing workforce supply data*, 100% of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) working in Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai counties worked in HRSA-defined medically underserved populations or areas. Nurses, including RNs and APRNs, serve an important role in rural areas in ensuring access to healthcare for all populations, as well as particularly vulnerable populations.

<u>Patients Served in Primary Practice Across All Settings</u>	<u>RNs</u>	<u>APRNs</u>
Disabled	53.8%	64.8%
Houseless	53.5%	59.6%
Medicare or Medicaid	79.4%	88.3%
Opioid Addiction/Dependency	43.4%	42.1%
Transgender	28.9%	41.5%

However, the accessing and completing healthcare education can be a challenge for nurses. In 2019, the Center identified that RNs on neighboring islands without a face-to-face bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) program have lower rates of completing a BSN than nurses on Oahu or Hawaii Island. Further, the Center identified through a series of community conversations funded by the Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, that financial burdens, including cost of education, student loans, and personal or family financial considerations lead to barriers for nurses to attain their goal degree. Student

loan repayment is identified as one solution to both support health care providers to serve in rural areas as well as attain their goal healthcare degrees, which will benefit the communities they serve.

Hawaii-ANA acknowledges the longstanding commitment of the Hawaii State Legislature in supporting loan repayments for health care providers. Further, **Hawaii-ANA provides testimony in strong support of HB2254, HD1 both for the intent of the measure, and for the full funding of \$500,000 for this initiative and asks the Committee to pass this measure as written.**

Source: *Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, (2017). *2017 Nursing Workforce Supply Survey Special Report: Employment Location of APRNS.*

Contact information for Hawaii – American Nurses Association (Hawaii-ANA):

President: Katie Kemp, BAN, RN-BC
Executive Director Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC
phone (808) 779-3001
500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E
Honolulu Hawaii USA 96825

president@hawaii-ana.org
executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2020; 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2254, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Joint 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** House Bill No. 2254, House Draft 1, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to be expended by the Department of Health in coordination with the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii, for the Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program; and
- (2) Stipulate that no funds be released unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from a private or another public source.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

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.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2254, House Draft 1
Friday, February 21, 2020; 1:30 p.m.
Page 2

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:33:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Davis	Hawaii Area Health Education Center	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 2254, which seeks state matching funds for the Hawaii Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Through HB 2254 \$500,000 is requested for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Erica Davis

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 1:58:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB2254 HD1

Friday, February 21, 2020, 1:30 pm, Room 308

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) strongly supports HB2254 HD1, which appropriates funds for 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. Funding the health care provider loan repayment program administered through JABSOM will support 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 this program 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, President
Chair, Legislative Action Committee
Hawai'i Psychological Association

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Finance
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2020

HB 2254 - Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 2254, which seeks state matching funds for the Hawaii Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Through HB 2254 \$500,000 is requested for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Warren Yamashita MD MPH
Resident Physician
Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Finance
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2020

HB 2254 - Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 2254, which seeks state matching funds for the Hawaii Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Through HB 2254 \$500,000 is requested for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 6:13:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Villarin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the

House Committees on Finance

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2020

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Villarin, MD

OB/GYN, Queen's North Hawaii Community Hospital, Waimea, Big Island

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 7:10:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Habibi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 7:59:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB 2254 - Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 2254, which seeks state matching funds for the Hawaii Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Through HB 2254 \$500,000 is requested for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Stephanie Skow, MD

Lihue, Kauai

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Finance
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2020

HB 2254 - Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Through HB 2254 \$500,000 is requested for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Terri Vrooman, DNP, RN, ACAGNP-BC

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 8:30:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devin Hazama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of HB 2254.

Completing the majority of my medical school training (Wainae Coast Comprehensive Health Center) and residency training (Hilo medical center) in rural/underserved areas, I've seen first-hand how healthcare disparities affect these underserved communities. My wish would be to continue practicing such communities after I graduate from residency. However, the educational debt I carry from student loans is a concern that constantly weighs on my mind, as with many of my other colleagues.

I agree that expanding funding and supporting the loan repayment program is one of the best ways to address the growing physician shortage in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 9:16:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH ANN IGNACIO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 9:24:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ALLEN BAGALSO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 9:45:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am writing in **strong support** of **HB 2254 HD1**, which seeks state matching funds for the Hawaii Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Funding provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. **This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year** to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. **One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment.** JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness. **Please continue this program!**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony!

Rhonda Roldan

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:57:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 2254, which seeks state matching funds for the Hawaii Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. This program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and registered nurses who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

I am a physician at the Queen Emma Clinics, at which care is provided for the underserved population.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

Through HB 2254 \$500,000 is requested for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This will be very helpful, as this year we had 17 applications and could only fund 7!!

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii; however, even urban populations have large underserved populations that require more physicians. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the

health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

John Misailidis, MD

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 12:03:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-2254-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 1:26:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2254 for loan repayment for healthcare professionals as I utilized this program to make working at Kalihi Palama Health Center an affordable option given loan payments and Hawaii's high cost of living. Mahalo for your consideration.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Finance
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2020

HB 2254 - Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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Hawaii has a shortage of over 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. The loan repayment program is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

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Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 49 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. Two-thirds of those providers who graduated from the program continue to work in Hawaii's underserved communities and 43% have stayed where they worked for their loan repayment contract. The state funding for the loan repayment program is vital to continuing our efforts to meet the health care needs of our communities and to assist our underserved communities toward reflecting wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Nicole Ryan



LATE

19 February 2020

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

Re: Strong Support of HB 2254 HD1, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

Hrg: Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1:30 PM at Capitol Room 308

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports HB 2254 HD1, which would appropriate funds to the department of health to fund the health care provider loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns school of medicine to provide loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, nurse practitioners, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and nurses who agree to work in a federally-designated professional shortage area or in a geographic area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

The health care provider loan repayment program would help to address the shortage of health care providers in Hawaii. The annual report from the Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment Project delivered to the 2020 legislature continues to report a physician shortage, especially in the primary care specialty. According to the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), Hawaii has a shortage of about 800 doctors and the shortage is particularly acute on the neighbor islands which adversely affects access to healthcare for those communities. Loan repayment is a strategy to recruit more health care providers who struggle with an average medical school debt for JABSOM graduates in 2018-2019 of \$187,113.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro Haro
President-Elect
Workforce Development Legislative Sub-Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

By

Jerris 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

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2254 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 HB 2254 HD1, which 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, nurses, and social workers 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.

Hawai'i has a shortage of about 800 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. In the last year approximately 150 physicians left the state, further contributing to the physician shortage. Without these doctors and other 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 46 health care providers since its inception in 2012. Currently, the Loan Repayment Program supports 25 providers in Hawai'i. Of the program graduates, 43% remain where they served their commitment and 67% remain in Hawai'i.

In 2016, 64% of John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) residents and fellows had a current student loan burden. The average medical school debt of our graduates for the last 3 years is as follows:

- 2016-2017 = \$169,763;
- 2017-2018 = \$146,637;
- 2018-2019 = \$187,113.

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 86% 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.

HB 2254 HD1 requests \$500,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawai'i and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need. This funding will be very helpful in bringing more healthcare professionals to underserved communities, as this year we had 17 applications and could only provide loan repayment to 7 individuals.

Again thank you for this opportunity to testify in support, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities set forth in the University of Hawai'i Broad of Regents' Approved Budget.