



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 28, 2020 at 11:05 a.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean

Winona Lee, MD, Director, 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD, Chair, Department of Native Hawaiian Health  
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2392 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in **strong support** of SB 2392, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports the intent of SB 2392, which would ensure the sustainability of student stipends and other student support for 'Imi Ho'ōla participants. The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program is a proven diversity pipeline program that provides educational opportunities to disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine. Since 1973, 'Imi Ho'ōla (Hawaiian meaning those who seek to heal) has successfully equipped deserving local students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve success in the competitive field of medicine. The literature demonstrates that students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are traditionally underrepresented in medicine are more likely to choose primary care and rural settings in which to practice medicine.<sup>1</sup>

### **Addressing the workforce shortage by producing primary care physicians committed to rural and underserved communities**

JABSOM is committed to producing a diverse health care workforce that addresses the health needs of all people of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i physician shortage has created a gap in current services. When applying the national demand model to the Hawai'i, the state indicates a need for 3,483 total FTEs or a shortage of 509 physicians. However, when island geography and unmet specialty specific needs by county are examined, the estimated unmet need for physicians increases to 820 FTEs with Primary Care experiencing the largest shortage statewide (300 FTEs needed).<sup>2</sup> Growing our local physicians has never been more critical, and efforts to create a robust culturally-competent physician workforce committed to Hawai'i and its people are vital.

The mission of 'Imi Ho'ōla is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through a program that enhances disadvantaged students' academic and professional readiness for medical school. The program accepts up to 12 students per year and once enrolled, participants gain a conditional acceptance to JABSOM. 'Imi Ho'ōla's success is

largely due to the longstanding commitment by the medical school, community supporters, and stakeholders. All 'Imi Ho'ōla faculty positions and operational costs are completely institutionalized within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Student stipends in 'Imi Ho'ōla have been generously supported by the Queen's Health Systems for the past 15 years. The current agreement for support is now in its final year of funding.

To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ōla alumni have successfully graduated from JABSOM. Although 'Imi Ho'ōla is not limited to persons of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent, a large number of students from these backgrounds have demonstrated that they are from a disadvantaged background and are deemed eligible for the program. 'Imi Ho'ōla's contributions to Pacific Islander diversity at JABSOM are significant for 38% of all Native Hawaiians, 34% of Filipinos, 57% of Micronesians, and 89% of Samoan students accessing medical school and successfully graduating from JABSOM came through this program.

In a 20 year retrospective study (1996-2016), it was found that 'Imi Ho'ōla produced more MDs that remained in Hawai'i for residency (39% vs. 26%) and chose primary care at higher rates compared to JABSOM graduates who did not go through 'Imi Ho'ōla. When combined, 'Imi Ho'ōla significantly produced more MDs who either chose primary care or residency in Hawai'i when compared to non-'Imi Ho'ōla MDs (72% vs 57%). In the study, factors that predicted choosing a primary care practice were female, 1st generation college students, and a higher science GPA. Factors that predict practicing in underserved communities include underrepresented minority status and a demonstrated commitment to serve.<sup>3</sup>

### **'Imi Ho'ōla's contributions are a rarity across the nation**

Based on data from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) and the Post Baccalaureate survey conducted in 2017, JABSOM is one of only 45 schools across the nation that have a post-baccalaureate program. Of these schools, only 16 programs consider student groups that are underrepresented in the health professions as a criteria for enrollment and only 6 programs grant admissions to an affiliated medical school upon successful completion. 'Imi Ho'ōla not only strengthens our ability to diversify the workforce here in our island state, but is an exemplar for excellence across our nation.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure, provide that its passage does not impact the priorities set forth in the Board of Regents' Approved Budget.

1. Goodfellow et al., *Predictors of Primary Care Physician Practice Location in Underserved Urban or Rural Areas in the United States: A Systematic Literature Review*. *Academic Medicine*, September 2016.

2. *Annual Report of Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project, Report to the 2020 Legislature, December 2019*.

3. Purdy, C. M. *Evaluation of a Post-Baccalaureate Medical Education Program for Disadvantaged Students to Diversify the Healthcare Workforce of Hawai'i (1996-2016)*. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2019.



February 26, 2020

To: The Senate Committee Members on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of SB2392, Relating to Health

Hrg: February 28, 2020 at 11:05 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 211

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) 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** SB2392, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs.

Over a 45-year history, the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program has established itself as successful pipeline program for academically-qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Each year 12 students are selected for admission to the program and are guaranteed admission to JABSOM upon successful completion. The 'Imi Ho'ōla program has produced close to 300 physicians.

Hawai'i has a physician shortage with Primary Care and rural areas experiencing the most need. Graduates from the 'Imi Ho'ōla program are more likely to remain in Hawai'i for residency, work in Primary Care, or practice in underserved communities, compared to other JABSOM graduates. Supporting these students who will serve our community as physicians is a wonderful investment in the future health of Hawai'i.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Townsend Ing', is written over a horizontal line.

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH  
Legislative Committee Chair  
Hawaii Public Health Association

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:08:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Rantz	Testifying for Hawaii State Rural Health Association	Support	No

Comments:



## HIPHI Board

Michael  
Robinson, MBA, MA  
Chair  
Hawaii Pacific Health

JoAnn Tsark, MPH  
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Medicine, Native Hawaiian  
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John A. Burns School of  
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Native Hawaiian Health

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of Law

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John A. Burns School of  
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Rachel Novotny,  
PhD, RDN, LD  
University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
College of Tropical Agriculture  
and Human Resources

Garret Sugai  
Kaiser Permanente

Catherine Taschner, JD  
McCorriston Miller Mukai  
MacKinnon LLP

Date: February 27, 2020

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Re: Support for SB 2392, Relating to Health

Hrg: February 28, 2020 at 11:05 AM at Conference Room 211

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> is in **Support of SB 2392**, which appropriates funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends and other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs.

The 'Imi Ho'ōla program provides educational opportunities for disadvantaged students to pursue health careers. Stipends offered to 'Imi Ho'ōla students help them to focus on their studies and decrease financial concerns. This program has produced 278 doctors, with 80 percent of the practicing doctors providing primary care service.

According to the 2019 Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project Report, the state needs as many as 820 more doctors to satisfy the need for services, with the greatest shortage in primary care<sup>ii</sup>. Primary care providers are critical to improving overall population health, as they provide a medical home, preventative care, early detection and treatment of disease, and chronic disease management.

'Imi Ho'ōla is a unique program that can help address the physician shortage in Hawai'i. We support SB 2392 and ask the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

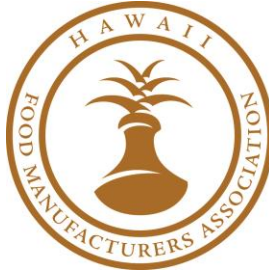
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director

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<sup>i</sup> Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

<sup>ii</sup> University of Hawai'i. (2019). *Annual report on findings from the Hawai'i physician workforce assessment project*. Retrieved from <https://www.ahcc.hawaii.edu/workforce/>



**LATE**

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Friday, February 28, 2020 at 11:05 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**RE: SB 2500. RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association (HFMA) **supports** SB2500, which would provide funding for the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) and its programs such as the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP).

HFMA is a non-profit organization of approximately 150 members that have been promoting Hawaiian grown or manufactured products since 1977. HFMA works to increase the understanding and appreciation of the unique flavors, quality, and care that go into the production of Hawaii's fine foods and beverages represented by our membership.

HTDC has helped many members grow revenue and employment for the State of Hawaii. Through the SBIR and MAP programs, HTDC has provided essential financial assistance to HFMA companies to increase operating capacity and efficiency. HTDC and its programs are integral to the growth and success of local companies who seek information and guidance on what it takes to succeed in growing a business here in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2500.

# Filipinos for Affirmative Action

**LATE**

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2392 Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

February 28, 2020

11:05 am

Hawai'i State Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**To:** Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran  
Committee Ways and Means Members: J. Kalani English, Kurt Fevella, Breene Harimoto, Lorraine R. Inouye, Kaiali'i Kahele, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Gil Riviere, Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Brian T. Taniguchi,

**From:** Agnes Malate, PhD  
armalate@yahoo.com

The Filipinos for Affirmative Action's mission is to advocate for the civil rights of all in our multicultural community. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." We firmly support *SB 2392* in regards to appropriating funds for 'Imi Ho'ola student stipends.

Governor John A. Burns, who the UH School of Medicine is named after, and community leaders had the vision to establish a medical school so anyone regardless of social, economic, or ethnic background would have access to quality medical education and health care. This was achieved with the support of the legislators before you. The founding leadership team of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) recognized that Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, Samoans, and others from disadvantaged backgrounds were highly underrepresented in medical education and the workforce. The 'Imi Ho'ola Program (now called 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program) was established to assist students who lacked the opportunities to fully demonstrate their potential due to circumstances beyond their control. While the program has made tremendous progress and 278 'Imi Ho'ola alumni have graduated from JABSOM, the need to have physicians that reflect Hawai'i's population remains. 'Imi Ho'ola has been a proven pathway for those from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds and has contributed greatly to the diversity at JABSOM. Of the students who entered and successfully graduated from JABSOM 38% of all Native Hawaiians, 34% of all Filipinos, 57% of all Micronesians, and 89% of all Samoans came through the program.

Funding to support tuition and other education and living expenses for post-baccalaureate, unclassified students, is very limited. The costs place an undue burden on the students since they and their families often do not have the financial resources. The intensive 11-month program is demanding and working to help defray the costs is not a viable option.

Thank you for your consideration of *SB 2392* and the opportunity to express our support.

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Friday, February 28, 2020 at 11:05 a.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

RE: **Strong Support** for SB2392, Relating to Health

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jester Galiza. I am currently a second-year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and a proud graduate of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program, and I am here in strong support of SB 2392, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends. I am in strong support of this bill for many reasons, but the one reason that I would like to underscore is that this bill would be an investment in ensuring that our physician workforce here in Hawai'i truly reflects our diverse patient demographics, especially in our rural and most socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

I am the product of immigrant Filipino rice farmers and the public education system in Ewa Beach, and I grew up in poverty. Statistically speaking, there aren't a lot of people with my background in medical school and in the field of medicine. 'Imi Ho'ōla is helping to change that narrative, not just for Filipinos, but also for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and in general, those that come from socioeconomic disadvantage.

One challenge that students from socioeconomic disadvantage face is having to balance being a full-time student and working to provide income for themselves and their families. Not to mention the cost of books and other resources, which poses a burden to these students that do not equally affect those with more socioeconomic privilege. For us, the prospect of having to pay for the 'Imi Ho'ōla program, the books and resources needed to be successful, my own personal daily living, and supporting my parents with their financial obligations was quite daunting and overwhelming. Fortunately, the monthly stipends we received significantly alleviated that burden; and I can speak on behalf of my fellow 'Imi Ho'ōla students and alumni that those stipends were truly indispensable. As a result, I was able to focus all of my energy in my academics because I did not have to split my focus between school and work, which I would have normally done in any other situation.

All in all, it is because of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program and its stipends that I am able to pursue my dream of becoming a primary care physician here in Hawai'i, serving disadvantaged populations much like the one I came from. Only a small percentage of people like me ever make it to medical school and therefore become a physician - and that's a huge problem. But the 'Imi Ho'ōla program is changing that, and I am one of many students who can attest to that. Please consider investing in me and other future physicians who intend to practice in Hawai'i and in our most disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Jester Galiza



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:37:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Huynh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Jason, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not personally an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Jason Huynh

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:43:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Card	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Kevin Card, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392. Some of my strongest and most well-rounded classmates are graduates of the `Imi Ho`ola program and will undoubtedly be outstanding physicians and leaders within the Hawaiian community.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Kevin Card

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:53:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara McAllaster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is XXX, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,

Sara McAllaster

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:55:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Jennifer Lau and I am an alumni, supporter, and beneficiary of the Imi Hoola program. I am currently a second year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:56:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:59:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clare-Marie Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is XXX, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Clare-Marie

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:02:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Samuel Bell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Samuel Bell, a current 2nd-year medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

As a student at JABSOM, I interact with `Imi Ho`ola graduates every day as student peers, faculty educators, and practicing physicians in the community. Although I'm not a graduate of the program myself, I've seen the direct benefits that this program has on disadvantaged communities within our state. `Imi Ho`ola graduates are playing a vital role in addressing our state's physician shortage - particularly on neighbor islands - and providing opportunities to disadvantaged students is a fantastic way to help disadvantaged communities as a whole, which is a topic that I'm very passionate about. It is vital that the demographics of our medical community reflects the demographics of the state as a whole, and `Imi Ho`ola is actively working towards that goal.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Respectfully,  
Samuel Bell

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:03:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aiko Murakami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:16:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kayla Murata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Kayla Murata, a current fourth-year medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Aloha,

Kayla Murata, MS-4

UH John A Burns School of Medicine

Medical Student

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:35:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

*Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2392 which appropriates funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Hoola student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.*

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Robin Miyamoto and I am a clinical psychologist working in underserved areas who recognizes the importance of increasing the number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students in the Healthcare field. I am a strong supporter of the Imi Hoola program.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

Imi Hoola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies.

To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians.

Please support this crucial program.

Mahalo,

Robin Miyamoto, Psy.D.

Clinical Psychologist

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:52:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arlene Kiyohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Arlene Kiyohara, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,

Arlene Kiyohara

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 12:29:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edy Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Edy Kaleimomi Gomes, a current third-year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,

Edy Kaleimomi Gomes



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 12:50:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Gorenflo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Rachel Gorenflo, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus of the program, I currently go to school with many of its alumni and have had the privilege of working with them in the community as well. This program produces very competent and compassionate physicians and I strongly believe in its mission. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Rachel Gorenflo

**THE SENATE**  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020  
TIME: 11:05 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Shelley Soong and this testimony is in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends to program participants. I am a supporter of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program and this bill for numerous reasons:

- Within the labor force, Native Hawaiians have a lower rate of college degrees and are less likely to be employed in high paying management and professional occupations.
- Only **6.2% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians hold a bachelor's degree compared to 21.6%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Graduate school attendance, after completing an undergraduate degree, is considered an important outcome for increasing the nation's professionals in health science careers. As access to graduate education is limited to those who excel at the undergraduate level, increasing the number of Native Hawaiian students that successfully complete and excel in undergraduate science degrees is critical at a national level.
- **Only 1.9% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians hold a graduate or professional degree compared to 11.1%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Data also suggests low graduation rates in science fields among Native Hawaiians, and attrition from the sciences is associated with an overall shortage of professionals in the science and health fields.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum.
- Ultimately, a strong network of highly trained Native Hawaiian health professionals is needed to work in health care, conduct health
- 'Imi Ho'ōla has **supported diverse students underrepresented in the health sciences (e.g., Native Hawaiians) for over 45 years.** The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.
- Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges
- To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ōla graduates have **successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now practicing physicians.**
- This stipend is a critical factor which allows 'Imi Ho'ōla students to **successfully complete the graduate education required to becoming a physician in Hawaii.**

Sincerely,  
Shelley Soong



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 1:17:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tana Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Tana Ramos, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,

Tana Ramos



**THE SENATE**  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020  
TIME: 11:05 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Martina Kamaka and I am a family physician writing this testimony is in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends to program participants. As a family physician, I am acutely aware of the shortage of physicians in our State (over 800 physicians short) and the shortage is especially acute for primary care physicians and for our non-urban Honolulu communities. The 'Imi Ho'ōla program has been an important contributor to increasing the numbers of local kids going to medical school, graduating and practicing in Hawaii. Interestingly, over 80% of their graduates go into primary care. Many go on to practice in our underserved communities.

The 'Imi Ho'ōla students come from disadvantaged backgrounds but the program has proven that they can produce successful medical school students. In addition, their students are known for taking leadership positions in their medical school classes. They are also active volunteers in our communities.

Stipends for these students are critically important. Since they are post baccalaureate students, they are not eligible for scholarships. These students come from disadvantaged backgrounds so this additional financial burden can make or break their participation. The program is rigorous and students are unable to work while participating in 'Imi Ho'ōla.

These stipends help to pay for the needs of daily life so that 'Imi Ho'ōla students can focus on studying and successfully graduating. As successful 'Imi Ho'ōla graduates they are guaranteed a slot in the first year class at John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Sincerely,



Martina L. Kamaka, MD

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 1:52:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elliott Koshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Elliott Koshi, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Elliott Koshi

**THE SENATE**  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020  
TIME: 11:05 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

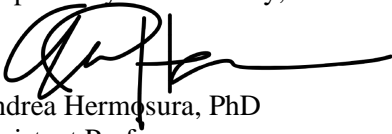
Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

I am Andrea Hermosura, PhD, an Assistant Professor, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends to program participants. I am a supporter of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program and this bill for numerous reasons:

- Within the labor force, Native Hawaiians have a lower rate of college degrees and are less likely to be employed in high paying management and professional occupations.
- Only **6.2% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians hold a bachelor's degree compared to 21.6%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Graduate school attendance, after completing an undergraduate degree, is considered an important outcome for increasing the nation's professionals in health science careers. As access to graduate education is limited to those who excel at the undergraduate level, increasing the number of Native Hawaiian students that successfully complete and excel in undergraduate science degrees is critical at a national level.
- **Only 1.9% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians hold a graduate or professional degree compared to 11.1%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Data also suggests low graduation rates in science fields among Native Hawaiians, and attrition from the sciences is associated with an overall shortage of professionals in the science and health fields.
- Many studies, including those done in Hawai'i, find that a person's income is strongly associated with his or her longevity, and income is also strongly tied to a person's educational qualifications. Native Hawaiians who have lower educational attainment and income are more likely to engage in substance abuse and are at greater risk for behavioral health problems and chronic diseases.
- Health care sector jobs are projected to increase by more than 160% by 2040 and wages are typically more in line with a livable wage for the State of Hawai'i. However, these jobs typically require a Bachelor's degree at minimum.
- Ultimately, a strong network of highly trained Native Hawaiian health professionals is needed to work in health care, conduct health
- 'Imi Ho'ōla has **supported diverse students underrepresented in the health sciences (e.g., Native Hawaiians) for over 45 years.** The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.
- Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges
- To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ōla graduates have **successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now practicing physicians.**
- This stipend is a critical factor which allows 'Imi Ho'ōla students to **successfully complete the graduate education required to becoming a physician in Hawaii.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Hermosura', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Hermosura, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Native Hawaiian Health

John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 2:01:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Krystal Anderson, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,  
Krystal Anderson

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 2:18:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Dae Claypoole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 2:37:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
chase hwang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 2:46:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruze, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee on ways and means,

I am native Hawaiian, and support SB2392 which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Hoola student stipends or for other 'Imi Hoola student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The 'Imi Hoola Post-Baccalaureate Program is a proven diversity pipeline program that provides educational opportunities to disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine. Since 1973, 'Imi Hoola (Hawaiian meaning those who seek to heal) has successfully equipped deserving local students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve success in the competitive field of medicine. To date, 278 'Imi Hoola alumni have successfully graduated from JABSOM. Programs like these have not only lead to the succesful training of many doctors and researchers from underserved communities but many of these graduates have gone on to return to their own or other underserved communities throughout the state. Please pass SB2392 for our future medical leaders.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 2:52:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sarah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 3:21:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in strong support of **SB 2392**, which would provide `Imi Ho`ola student stipends to program participants.

A little background on the program-- `Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies. As an alumni, I can attest to this fact. It was a HUGE contribution to having somewhat of a financial stability while immersing oneself in an intense and rigorous program. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM.

In my own experience, `Imi Ho`Å• la is not something easily described in words, because it changes you from within. I came into the program knowing that it was going to be rigorous and challenging, but not only did I gain so much knowledge from it but I also became a part of this small group of incredible people who were also chasing their dreams of becoming a physician. Many people talk about the rigor and the academic foundation you gain from this program, but not many discuss the many other blessings that the program provides.

Not surprisingly, this group of people I entered the program with became a part of my own `ohana. I am so blessed to have been brought together with such an incredibly talented and diverse group of people. I have learned an immense amount from my peers, both academically and in my daily life. Participating in this program allowed me to form an inseparable bond with them— people whom I know I can count on and look to as role models throughout my entire journey with medicine. Not only did I gain a special relationship with my peers, but I also was able to gain lifelong mentors and support system from the staff of `Imi Ho`Åœla. Everyone-- from office staff to instructors-- was such a huge part of why we were able to persevere and succeed. There was a good balance of nurturing love and tough love. Having that balance was what I needed to get me through the emotionally challenging parts of the program. They say "once an `imi, always an `imi" and I feel that it is very telling of the supportive nature that this program provides.

That being said, although having this support system is an amazing privilege, the notorious rigor of the program curriculum is very well deserved. Being in a constant state of stress and studying forced me to adapt and improve my time-management skills, discipline, stress-management, and so much more. A huge lesson was learning to become comfortable with being “uncomfortable.” You learn to triage with your studies because realistically, it is impossible to retain everything there is to know about medicine. There are so many life lessons I obtained from such an academic-based curriculum— it truly surprised me how much self-growth I underwent in such a short amount of time. `Imi Ho`Å• la was truly a humbling experience and I feel so incredibly blessed that I had an opportunity to be a part of something so that has so much impact and meaning to our communities. `Imi seeks to help those who may not have the same opportunities as others in the community, and I think it is important to raise awareness and inspire people who may be feeling discouraged because of their background or circumstances to let them know that being successful is possible when opportunities are given, taken, and honored. I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of this movement.

Lastly, on the topic of communities, I wanted to address the many opportunities that `Imi Ho`Å• la offered us that enabled us to get involved with our communities. Although a good portion of the program is dedicated to building a solid basic science foundation, there were multiple opportunities to go off-island and experience community service and healthcare on the neighboring islands. We were so grateful to have the chance to travel to Kalaupapa, Moloka`i to visit the remaining patients there. It was a beautiful learning experience. This provided an opportunity to build leadership skills, as everyone had to play a part in planning the trip and IÅ«`au that we put on for the community there. During my tenure in `imi, I also had the opportunity to shadow a physician. I was assigned to Hilo, Hawaii and got so much out of my week of shadowing. I was able to receive patient interaction, observe team dynamic in the office, and find concepts that we studied so intensely during phase II come about clinically-- it felt like we were coming full-circle. As you can see, this program means a lot to so many who have been fortunate to play a role in this `imi community. And a huge part as to why it's so successful is the financial support it provides while students are in the program so that they won't have to worry about financial burdens along the way. And it also really sends the notion to encourage giving back to that community one way or another, whether it be with their own time, financially, etc.

I hope you will consider helping this bill (**SB 2392**) move forward and I thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 3:58:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Abigail Bautista	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**THE SENATE**  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020  
TIME: 11:05 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to provide written testimony in **strong support** of SB 2392, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

I am Dr. J. Keawe Kaholokula, Chair of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. However, my testimony here is an individual private citizen and health professional concerned about the significant physician workforce shortage here in Hawaii, especially the need for more primary care physicians. I am also concerned about the cultural competency of our future physician workforce to, effectively, care for our diverse communities and most vulnerable populations across Hawaii. Finally, I am concerned about the significant underrepresentation of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in the physician workforce here in Hawaii, given that over 30% of all people in Hawai'i are either Native Hawaiian or from another Pacific Islander group. However, they bear a disproportionate burden of chronic diseases compared to other ethnic groups in Hawai'i.

The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program is the only pipeline program into medicine that seeks to address all of my concerns. 'Imi Ho'ōla is a proven diversity pipeline program that has been in existence for over 46 years. It provides a unique opportunity for socially disadvantaged students to achieve their dream of becoming physicians. A vast majority of 'Imi Ho'ōla graduates choose careers in primary care at higher numbers than other JABSOM medical students. They are also more likely to do their residency here in Hawai'i. If our graduates leave the islands for residency programs on the continental U.S., the chances of them coming back soon after residency are slim. The vast majority of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos who ever graduated from JABSOM with their medical degree entered medical school through 'Imi Ho'ōla. Because these students come from diverse social backgrounds, and because of their 'Imi Ho'ōla training, their cultural competency in providing patient care is very strong. In short, 'Imi Ho'ōla is a necessary and vital pipeline to address our physician workforce shortage, to ensure a diverse physician workforce that reflects and understands our diverse communities, and to ensure bright and passionate Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino students are given an opportunity to achieve their dream of becoming a physician serving our communities.

The stipends provided to 'Imi Ho'ōla students allow them to focus on their studies during this one-year intensive program to increase their likelihood of success. These students come from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds so the cost of their education is an issue. The stipends and other supports offered by SB 2392 will ensure that 'Imi Ho'ōla students can focus on their studies without financial worries and barriers, which only increase their likelihood of success.

Again, mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph K. Kaholokula". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'K'.

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 4:05:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nash Witten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a graduate of the Imi Hoola Program and soon to be community primary care Family Medicine physician at Kokua Kalihi Valley, I very strongly support this bill.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:17:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Surbhi Bansil	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Surbhi Bansil, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,

Surbhi Bansil

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:34:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bree Kaneakua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Bree Kaneakua, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,

Bree Kaneakua

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:38:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Purdy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Dr. Mā• lia Purdy, a faculty member at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and current instructor for the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392.**

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392.**

Respectfully,

Dr. Mā• lia Purdy

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:56:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joey Kohatsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Joey Kohatsu and I am a Physician licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii. I am a Primary Care Physician board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine. I am in small group private practice in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am a proud graduate of the Imi Hoola Post-Baccalaureate Program.

I am writing **IN STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB 2392** which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawaii and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through a program that enhances disadvantaged students academic and professional readiness for medical school. Imi Hoola currently accepts up to 12 students per year and once enrolled, participants gain a conditional acceptance into JABSOM upon successful completion of the one year program.

To date, 278 Imi Hoola alumni have successfully graduated from JABSOM. Many graduates have chosen to practice in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific. The majority have selected to pursue careers providing primary care services. Several graduates are well-known physician-leaders in the community including: a former director of the state health department, current and former department chairperson at JABSOM, a former chief medical officer and current administrator for a large health care organization.

Imi Hoola's success is largely due to the longstanding commitment by the medical school, community supporters, and stakeholders. Due to the rigors of the intensive one year program, students are discouraged from seeking employment. Students are dependent on financial assistance in the form of stipends to help defray the cost of tuition, books, and living expenses. This financial support allows students to focus on their studies and is critical to their successful completion of the program.

I am eternally grateful for the strong foundation that Imi Hoola set for my career in medicine. The program truly prepared me for the rigors of medical school and beyond. I felt equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in the competitive field of medicine. I shed the label of being disadvantaged. I truly consider it a privilege and honor to be an Imi Hoola alumni.

Although there are many competing needs in our community, the physician shortage crisis in the State of Hawaii is a very real issue impacting residents across the State. Supporting the Imi Hoola program would be one piece of the puzzle to ensure that our Keiki and Kupuna are able to access the care that they need and deserve.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:56:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Evan Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Evan Lum, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Evan Lum

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:57:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Enze Ma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Enze Ma, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Enze Ma



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 6:04:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Max Pono Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 6:26:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyler Thorne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Tyler Thorne, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Tyler Thorne

**THE SENATE**  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020  
TIME: 11:05 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Rebecca Delafield and this testimony is in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends to program participants.

I am a supporter of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program and this bill for many reasons. First, having physicians and other health professionals that reflect Hawai'i's diversity is important to patients and communities. The 'Imi Ho'ōla program fosters the development of physicians from so many of our island communities; Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Filipinos, Micronesians and others who have limited opportunities or are underrepresented in medicine to pursue careers in health. Many students from these communities have endless potential for doing great work, but face multiple challenges. Supporting students from these diverse backgrounds to become physicians strengthens our medical education programs, our physician workforce and our healthcare systems.

As a mother of young children and a daughter to an aging parent I am concerned about our state's healthcare professional shortage. The 'Imi Ho'ōla program graduates who receive their medical degree from John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) more likely than other JABSOM graduates to pursue careers in primary care, an area where Hawai'i has substantial need, especially in rural areas according to the latest Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment report.

As a daughter of a physician, the first in his family and from his island to get his medical degree, I have witnessed how supporting diverse and disadvantaged students to achieve success in health sciences benefits the individual, their family and their community. 'Imi Ho'ōla program graduates will go on to medical careers and will likely attend not just to their patients' medical needs, but also serve as an advocate for their patients who face challenges that they, themselves, have encountered. In addition, physicians from disadvantaged or underrepresented communities serve as role models and mentors to others interested in working to improve the health of their communities, but who face numerous obstacles.

This stipend is a critical factor which allows 'Imi Ho'ōla students to focus on their studies and complete the education to become a physician. Thank you for considering my testimony on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Delafield

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 8:04:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alyssa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 8:22:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure will be a stepping stone to help the future generations to relentlessly pursue with excellence in improving healthcare in Hawai'i by increasing the number of physicians through a 12-month educational program. A wise investment, a truly wise investment.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 8:23:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Shelley Wong, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Shelley Wong  
MD Candidate | Class of 2021  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at MÅ• noa

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, 2/28/2020

**Strong Support** for S.B. No. 2392, Relating to Health

My name is Ken Stridiron and I am a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year medical student and graduate of the Imi Hoola Postbaccalaureate Program. The program aims to help students from economic, social, and/or educational disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue their dreams of becoming physicians and serving their communities.

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity Imi Hoola provided me. During the 12-month program I committed myself fully. I spent nearly every day at school for over 8-hours a day. This level of commitment was necessary in order to survive the grueling program. As such, students are not able to work. Furthermore, as a postbaccalaureate program, enrolled students are not eligible for federal financial aid. I relied on what little savings I earned and the support of family for basic needs such shelter and food; I am one of the lucky one to have these means. My classmates and I were also very fortunate to receive financial support from the Queens Health Systems in the form of a stipend. Despite this support, it is not enough and the high cost of living in Hawai`i proved difficult to manage. Having additional financial support would help reduce barriers for students, like myself, to focus on their education.

To overcome so many obstacles up until this point, it is my belief that finances should not be the reason perspective students cannot pursue higher education. The benefits of Imi Hoola include increasing the physician workforce in our state. Many students enrolled come from rural and underserved areas. Current data shows that students from these areas are more likely to return back to their communities. As such, supporting this bill is not only an investment in the student, but the larger community as well. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB No. 2392**.

Respectfully,

A. Ken Stridiron MPH  
MD Candidate, Class of 2022

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 8:53:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carrie Ip	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Carrie Ip, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter/alumnus of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students like me for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

As an alumnus of `Imi Ho`ola, I strongly believe in the program's mission and am extremely proud to have been a part of something much greater than myself. Support from the `Imi Ho`ola program has allowed me to succeed not only as a student, but as a future physician dedicated to serving our islands. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Carrie Ip



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 9:03:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chung Eun Ha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Chung Eun Ha and I am a faculty member of the 'Imi Ho'Å• la program. I am currently teaching Medical Biochemistry courses to the students of the 'Imi Ho'Å• la program. This testimony is in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'Å• la student stipends to program participants.

I have been working closely with the students of 'Imi Ho'Å• la for the last 20 years and have helped more than 150 students successfully complete the program, and later become physicians. The majority (80%) of our program graduates are currently practicing primary care physicians, providing health care services to their communities. For over 45 years, the 'Imi Ho'Å• la program has proven to be successful in providing opportunities to pursue a career in medicine for students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

'Imi Ho'Å• la's curriculum offers courses to strengthen students' foundation in the basic sciences, which requires students to spend their full-time attending classes and studying the subject matter. Since our program's students are from disadvantaged backgrounds, financial support from the family is not available, and therefore without stipend support from the program, students would not be able to participate in the program. To our program's students, monthly stipend support is one of the key factors in their success in pursuing their careers in medicine. To date, 278 'Imi Ho'Å• la program alumni have completed medical school and the vast majority of them are practicing physicians in the state of Hawaii.

I am in strong support of SB 2392, which would provide funding for 'Imi Ho'Å• la student stipends, and humbly request that the Ways and Means Committee recommend the requested funding support for SB 2392.

Thank you for your consideration,

With best wishes,

Chung Eun Ha, Ph.D.

1212 Punahou Street, APT. 1201

Honolulu, HI 96826

**THE SENATE**  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2020  
TIME: 11:05 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Kelli-Ann Frank Voloch, MD and this testimony is in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends to program participants. I am a supporter of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program and this bill for numerous reasons:

- Graduate of the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate program c/o 1994 and graduate of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) c/o 1997
- Native Hawaiian Pediatrician serving the Waianae Coast for greater than 20 years at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center with other 'Imi Ho'ōla graduates
- To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ōla graduates have **successfully** entered and completed JABSOM and are now practicing physicians.
- This stipend is a critical factor which allows 'Imi Ho'ōla students to **successfully complete the graduate education required to becoming a physician in Hawaii**.
- 'Imi Ho'ōla has **supported diverse students underrepresented in the health sciences (e.g., Native Hawaiians) for over 45 years**. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.
- Only **6.2% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians hold a bachelor's degree compared to 21.6%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Graduate school attendance, after completing an undergraduate degree, is considered an important outcome for increasing the nation's professionals in health science careers. As access to graduate education is limited to those who excel at the undergraduate level, increasing the number of Native Hawaiian students that successfully complete and excel in undergraduate science degrees is critical at a national level.
- **Only 1.9% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians such as Waianae hold a graduate or professional degree compared to 11.1%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Data also suggests low graduation rates in science fields among Native Hawaiians, and attrition from the sciences is associated with an overall shortage of professionals in the science and health fields.
- Ultimately, a strong network of highly trained Native Hawaiian health professionals is needed to work in health care, conduct health. We are determined to "Grow our own Healers" to improve the health of Hawaii.

Let's BE THE CHANGE!

Support SB 2392 to improve the future of Health care in Hawaii.

Sincerely,  
Kelli-Ann Frank Voloch, MD  
Pediatrician, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center  
'Imi Ho'ōla Alumnus c/o 1994



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:59:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jared Dang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:11:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Maligro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2392**

My name is Jenna Maligro, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392.**

I am a local Filipino-Japanese, first-generation college student, first year medical student and a proud graduate of the `Imi Ho`ola program. My dreams of becoming a physician were made possible through this program.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392.**

Respectfully,

--

**Jenna Maligro**

M.D. Candidate | Class of 2023

John A. Burns School of Medicine

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 11:13:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lori Treschuk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I Strongly Support SB 2392 to appropriate funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Hoola student support programs.**

**Mahalo**



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 12:24:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabe S. Fernandes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly **support** SB 2392 which would appropriate funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Hoola student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

It is crucial to support funding for the **Imi Hoola Post-Baccalaureate Program** since this program provides a **pathway for promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds and people from under-represented communities to succeed and become excellent physicians** who will serve in Hawaii and the Pacific islands.

Mahalo for passing SB2392 and providing funds for Imi Hoola students so they can become physicians.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 12:54:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sasha Fernandes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2392

Date: Feb 26, 2020

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would appropriate funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Hoola student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

It is crucial to support funding for the Imi Hoola Post-Baccalaureate Program since this program provides a vital pathway for promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds and people from under-represented communities to succeed and become excellent physicians. **Unlike those from more privileged backgrounds, Imi Hoola students have had to overcome socio-economic hardships like poverty or being first in their family to graduate from college.** Also, Imi students face added financial difficulty since they cannot work while they attend Imi Hoola because it is an extremely rigorous academic program.

However, since it is rigorous, the Imi Hoola program prepares students to excel in medical school. **Through completing Imi, the very students who face socio-economic hardships, have become strong leaders and role models in medical school at JABSOM.** Overcoming hardships in life teaches Imi students resilience and a deep compassion for people who have suffered, so most Imi Hoola physicians return to their communities to serve in areas where the healthcare crisis is the greatest in Hawaii and the Pacific.

My family and friends living in the Neighbor islands and Rural Oahu face a severe shortage of physicians. **Without access to primary care physicians, people are forced to wait to receive healthcare, and instead end up with worse illnesses that require expensive Emergency room visits or longer hospitalizations that cost thousands of dollars.** By “Growing our own Physicians,” the Imi program is one solution to our severe shortage of physicians.

**Better access to healthcare and physicians actually reduces the cost of healthcare.**

While Hawaii has a severe shortage of physicians, we also have an even more severe shortage of Native Hawaiian physicians. **Native Hawaiians are about 24% of the population in Hawaii, however only 3% of the physicians in Hawaii are Native Hawaiian physicians. Native Hawaiians suffer the worst health in their own homeland, so we must nurture more Native Hawaiian physicians who are committed to being leaders in improving the health of Native Hawaiians and all those in Hawaii who lack access to quality health care.**

Although admission to Imi Hoola is not limited by race or ethnicity, a large number of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander students are from a disadvantaged background and are eligible to be considered for the Imi program. At JABSOM, 38% of Native Hawaiians, 34% of Filipinos, 57% of Micronesians, and 89% of Samoan physicians accessed medical school and successfully graduated from JABSOM through the Imi Hoola program. Imi Hoola’s contributions to Pacific Islander diversity at JABSOM are clearly significant.

We need a diverse healthcare workforce to serve Hawaii’s diverse people.

If we don’t take care of the health of All our people, then all of Hawaii suffers from economic hardships due to people facing worse illnesses from lack of access to physicians and quality medical care.

To date, 278 physicians are Imi Hoola alumni who successfully graduated from JABSOM and **have cared for thousands of people in clinics and hospitals**

**throughout our islands.** We need state funding for Imi Hoola to continue to “Grow our own physicians and healers.”

We must address the health of All Our People of Hawaii, not just some.

I strongly urge you to **pass SB 2392.**

Mahalo nui loa,

Sasha Fernandes

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 6:20:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sheldon Riklon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

As an alumnus of the Imi Ho'ola Program, I write in **strong support** of SB2392.

To succeed in matriculating through medical school, one has to be best prepared to undergo the rigors of learning medicine to be competent physicians for their future patients and families. The Imi Ho'ola Program provides this opportunity to students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds such as myself who is of Micronesian descent. Financial stipends for the participants in the Imi Ho'ola Program allows students to focus on their studies and is critical to their successful completion of the program. The Imi Ho'ola Program gives the students the best chance to successfully matriculate through the John A Burns School of Medicine by preparing them academically and professionally.

Although I am far removed, currently working as a family physician with a large underserved Marshallese community in Arkansas, I know of many other Imi Ho'ola alumni who are provide competent, caring, culturally appropriate healthcare to many underserved populations in rural settings in Hawai'i, the Pacific, and across the nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of SB2392.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheldon Riklon, MD

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 7:34:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Kevin Martinez, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Sincerely,

Kevin Martinez

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 7:56:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
erika pang harrison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM Hoola program.)

I am an alumni and a grateful stipend recipient of the IMI HO'OLA Program .

I represent a part of the program that supports diversity. My second generation Chinese father had only a high school graduation but was a proud member of the United States Armed Forces. My mother was a war bride from Germany who had an elementary school equivalent education but successfully cared for our family of six. I grew up in Kalihi Valley and went thru the public school system, Kalihi Elementary, Dole Middle School and a graduate of Farrington High School.

My history as having a disadvantaged background and being female at a time when women were still a minority in the medical field, as well as sharing a goal of serving my community, met the IMI HO'OLA program applicant criteria.

IMI HO'OLA prepared me for the academic rigors of medical school at the John A. Burns School of Medicine while the stipend and a tuition waver eased any financial burden.

I am now a primary care physician and work with three other IMI HO'OLA alumni serving the veterans of Oahu. We are just a small example of how the stipend helps the IMI HO'OLA Program serve it's mission.

I humbly ask that SB 2392 be included in the planned budget. This is such a valuable resource for the IMI HO'OLA Program, allowing continued recruitment of Hawaii's future physicians who would not otherwise take that step towards a career in medicine.

Aloha,

Erika Pang M.D.



**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 8:04:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristine Vo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Kristine, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

The 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program was an arduous journey that tested my mental endurance and grit. I was at school until dusk every day, and at first, even that was not enough to succeed. I felt devastated when I failed my first two midterms, but I knew that these tests did not define my intellectual abilities. Thanks to the amazing faculty and staff, I had the mentorship to help me reflect on my strengths/weaknesses and on how these factors affected my study habits. I learned to adapt, and even now, I continue to adapt based on what I am learning.

This program changed my life. It allowed me to hold onto the hope of someday becoming a physician, despite the obstacles I had faced in the past. It also gave me a group of lifelong friends that I can turn to for support throughout medical school. Lastly, it gave me the confidence to succeed in medical school and beyond. The 'Imi Ho'ola Program taught me to think like a doctor in a methodological fashion, rather than just memorizing facts. I hope to prove the success of the 'Imi Ho'ola Program, so that other students like me can have renewed hope of becoming a physician.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,

Kristine

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Christina Tse, a current second-year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

As a first generation college student, I always have found it difficult to navigate through college and high school. The logistics can be found on the Internet, but the difficult part was figuring out how to get there. The `Imi Ho`ola faculty believed in my abilities and invested in me in becoming a physician. A faculty member once told me after I failed my biology final retake in the Fall semester, "You are smart, but you just lack the foundation in the basic science. Let us see what we can help you with." Those words warmed my heart as I began to doubt if I had the academic capabilities to be in medical school. My faculty provided me feedback, and my `Imi classmates were the one who kept pimping me on questions even during our Kalaupapa trip. Without them, I would have failed and not be in medical school today. `Imi Ho`ola was my gateway into medicine. The program prepared me very well for medical school side by providing me with the basic science knowledge so I can commit more time to improving my foundation and learn clinical skills. `Imi Ho`ola has continued to be a wonderful family and valuable resource to me during medical school. For the first time, I feel like I had someone I could ask and trust with information regarding medicine, medical specialties, and residency. I am very thankful for the opportunity I was given and for the family I have joined.

During the `Imi Ho`ola program, I was not allowed to work as I had in college. Although I was lucky to live to my parents to save on living costs unlike some of my classmates, I did still have academic expenses (i.e. tuition, books, CPR, etc). The stipend during the `Imi Ho`ola program reduced the financial burden to allow me to focus on school as well as provide income for my family.

Please give SB2392 a serious consideration, as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,

Christina Tse

February 25, 2020

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Bianca Calio and I am a 2019 graduate of the Imi Hoola program. I am currently a first year medical school and would not be here today if it were not for through the Imi Hoola program.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

The 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program was the most rigorous, challenging and self growth preparatory program that I've experienced. Through this program, I gained tools and resources needed to become a successful medical student and a life-long learner. The skills gained included applying time management, utilizing resources, and most importantly processing information and knowledge through application.

This program fostered my passion for cultural competence in health care. The focus of cultural customs, social behaviours, lifestyles, way of life, and beliefs in the multitude of ethnicities meshed in our State cultivated and facilitated a full understanding of my future patients.

One area this program broadened was my time management skills. Due to the speed and mountainous volume of information, it forced me to adapt as a student. This surpassed my previous learning experiences. I adopted a schedule that placed analysis, assessment, investigation, and exploratory learning as top priority while in school.

Another skill this program aided in my growth as a student was the ability to organize, process, and decipher information while identifying and recognizing the most pertinent ideas and concepts. One of the methods utilized was concept mapping. Through mapping, I am able to retain more information and connect concepts to one another that furthered my ability to integrate all the basic sciences into my knowledge bank.


Lastly, the emphasis on the importance of culture and its impact on the health of the people of Hawaii was fully engrained throughout the program. Growing up in an area where physicians are in need and possessing an ethnic background with an equitable share of health disparities, 'Imi Ho'ola nurtured and kindled my passion for rural medicine. The rural shadowing experience on Hawaii island was among the most eye opening and rewarding experiences in 'Imi Ho'ola. The people that we served, bridged the concepts, skills, knowledge, and functional applications into a real life situation at the clinic.

Overall, 'Imi Ho'ola gave me the confidence I need to pursue medicine in remote areas such as Waialua and Waianae. The time management skills that I developed will help me with

prioritization throughout my medical career. Also, the ability to process information on a bigger scale will make learning more interesting and feed my curiosity. I look forward to utilizing all these techniques in the cultural environment of our islands in hopes of minimizing the health disparities seen in our local community.

Having a stipend was essential in my learning because it allowed me to focus on school. Many other Imi's such as I have benefitted from this opportunity and I know moving forward that future Imis will need this amount of support during this program. Kindly consider my testimony and thank you for your time.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bianca Calio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "C".

Bianca Calio

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 8:41:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amber Caracol Noguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Amber Noguchi and I am a proud alum of La Pietra School (1999), the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (BS in Biology, 2004) and the University of Washington (Ph.D. in Molecular Cellular Biology and Certificate in Molecular Medicine, 2011). I grew up in Chinatown in the 80's, one of three daughters to a single mother who worked three jobs to provide for us. I know first-hand the effects of drug addiction but always strived to improve my life through education. I received a scholarship to attend La Pietra School from the 6th grade and graduated as Valedictorian of my class in 1999. I continued my education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where I received financial aid, scholarships and tuition waivers, in addition to working part-time, to cover my tuition and educational expenses. While at the University of Washington, I received various fellowships to fund my degree as well as my research to understand the effects of chemotherapy on cancer progression. I am so blessed that I was able to earn my post-secondary degrees completely loan-free! I am a first generation college graduate (second in my family after my older sister) and the first in my immediate and extended family to pursue and earn a doctoral degree, none of which would not be possible without the mentorship and financial support I received throughout my schooling.

Upon graduating with my Ph.D. in 2011, I shifted gears and entered academia as a lecturer in Seattle, WA. I taught Biology and Human Anatomy and Physiology lectures and labs for science majors, non-science majors and pre-health students at the community college and university level. I also had the opportunity to develop a Biotechnology course that I taught in Malaysia. It was through these experiences, especially teaching abroad, that made me realize it was time to return to Hawai'i and continue this work at home and in my community.

Since moving home at Christmas in 2012, I have worked with our local students through my positions as a pre-college advisor, a community college lecturer, pre-health advisor and academic advisor. In my current position as the Director of Undergraduate Research and Pre-Professional Programs at Chaminade University of Honolulu, I am able to work with our students in addition to building programs to support their success.

The 'Imi Ho'Ā• la Program is one of the programs that I frequently recommend our pre-medical students to apply to. With a focus on preparing disadvantaged students for medical school, 'Imi Ho'Ā• la is able help fill the attainment gap by supporting diverse students in the medical field. This program helps students strengthen their foundation in the sciences in addition to providing valuable mentoring to students.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student stipends to program participants, in addition to providing other student support services. As a student who received many forms of financial aid, I cannot emphasize how helpful financial aid is. It allows students to focus on their studies rather than worry about how to pay their bills, or if they need to choose between going to work or going to class and studying for a test. To date, 278 students who have completed the program have successfully entered and graduated from the John A. Burns School of Medicine and are currently practicing medicine. Without programs like these, the lack of diverse physicians will continue to grow which will have adverse effects on the health and well-being of Hawai'i.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amber Caracol Noguchi

ambercnoguchi@gmail.com

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 8:45:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Weiming Du	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



Chair Donovan Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran

Maggie Kwock  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Medical Student, John A. Burns School of Medicine

Thursday 27, 2020

Support for S.B. No. 2392, Relating to Health

As an Imi Hoola Program graduate, Class of 2018, I strongly support S.B. No. 2392, Relating to Health, which would provide stipends to students enrolled in the Imi Hoola program.

Students accepted into the Imi Hoola Program come from various disadvantaged socio-economic and/or educational backgrounds. Enrolling as a full-time student in the program means giving up prior employment, and the rigors of the program discouraged part-time employment. Stipends provided to those in the Imi Hoola program will help to abate some of the students' and their loved ones' financial burdens, allowing them the precious opportunity to fully concentrate on their studies. This monetary support will especially be valuable for students who have young families. I was fortunate to be a recipient of a stipend provided to Imi Hoola students from The Queen's Health Systems, and my stipend went towards my family's expenses for basic livelihood: food, rent, and transportation.

Hawaii is faced with a severe physicians shortage, especially in primary care providers. The Imi Hoola Program, for the past 40+ years, have been supporting students to succeed in medical school. As many Imi Hoola students come from disadvantaged backgrounds, they are more inclined to fill in the healthcare gaps as primary care providers, simply because they are so grateful and want to give back to their communities in the most direct and positive way. As studies have shown, "In areas of the country where there are more primary care providers per person, death rates for cancer, heart disease, and stroke are lower and people are less likely to require hospitalization.

I respectfully encourage the committee to pass S.B. No. 2392. Supporting the Imi Hoola Program through providing stipends for their students will help to alleviate Hawaii's current physicians shortage and encourage students from all socio-economic classes and backgrounds to pursue their dreams of a medical career. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:02:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Yamauchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha & Hafa Adai,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 2392** to provide stipends to participants in the ‘Imi Ho‘ola Post-Baccalaureate Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JASOM). I am not a clinician, but have worked at the medical school of over 15 years in various departments and have met many of the amazing students that have participated in this program and graduated from JABSOM. Many of my family members here on Oahu and in the NMI have been cared for by ‘Imi alumni for various issues over the years reinforcing ‘Imi’s mission of providing primary care for underserved communities in Hawaii and the Pacific. I truly believe in the program and the students that come through the program.

‘Imi Ho‘ola has supported the diversity of the medical student population since 1973 with over 270 participants graduating from JABSOM. The program’s mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai‘i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students’ academic and professional needs. The students that participate in the program have had to struggle either educationally, financially, or socially and this stipend is a critical factor that allows students to focus on their studies while enrolled in the program. This is unusual for many of these students who have had to work to support themselves and/or their families while obtaining their undergraduate degree. ‘Imi is a non-degree granting post-baccalaureate program and the students are not eligible for federal financial aid. These are just some of the challenges that these students must overcome in order to complete the rigor of the program.

‘Imi Ho‘ola is an extremely rigorous program that strengthens the student’s basic science foundation and allows the students the opportunity to pursue their dream of becoming a physician. Upon successful completion of the program, students will matriculate into JABSOM as first-year medical students. Many of our ‘Imi alumni have become leaders within the medical school and often hold officer positions such as class president or leading social interest groups. ‘Imi provides disadvantaged and underrepresented students the opportunity to pursue a career in medicine, creating a diversity in the medical school class, and will ultimately increase the number of

clinicians from underserved communities that return and practice in these communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kimberly Barnes Yamauchi

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:09:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James DeJesus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is James DeJesus, a current first year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392.**

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392.**

Respectfully,

James DeJesus

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:11:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bibek Saha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:15:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jarren Takaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Jarren Takaki, a current medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB 2392.**

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392.**

Respectfully,

Jarren Takaki

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:16:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Lim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:17:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mele Look	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislators,

I have been a researcher of Hawaiian health issues for the last 40 years and am submitting this testimony as an individual in **support** of SB 2392 which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ola student stipends and program support for this program that has proven its success time and time again.

The shortage of physicians in Hawai'i have been widely reported and is of growing concern as we face imminent as well as future medical and health concerns for people of Hawai'i. The 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program is almost 50 years old and is a physician training model, that originated in Hawai'i that has been replicated across the world because of its proven effectiveness in successfully training minority and disadvantaged students to become successful physicians that serve populations in greatest need.

The mission of 'Imi Ho'ola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through a program that enhances disadvantaged students' academic and professional readiness for medical school. The program accepts up to 12 students per year and once enrolled, participants gain a conditional acceptance to JABSOM.

The critical provision of stipends allows these students to focus on their medical school training. Through careful research, JABSOM determined that, in the past, 'Imi students that took jobs, loans, or burdened their families with debt were more likely to not complete their training even when they were successful with their medical studies. These funds invest in their future, once in medical school, they are more likely to be able to secure scholarships and other financial support not previously available.



'Imi Ho'ola's success is largely due to the longstanding commitment by the medical school, community supporters, and stakeholders. To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ola alumni have successfully graduated from JABSOM. Although 'Imi Ho'ola is not restricted to persons of Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent, a large number of students from these backgrounds have demonstrated that they are from a disadvantaged background and are deemed eligible for the program. 'Imi Ho'ola's contributions to Pacific Islander diversity at JABSOM are significant for 38% of all Native Hawaiians, 34% of Filipinos, 57% of Micronesians, and 89% of Samoan students accessing medical school and successfully graduating from JABSOM came through this program.

Please support SB2392.

Sincerely,

Mele A. Look

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:44:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KSL	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

Thank you for hearing the SB 2392 in your Ways and Means Committee and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2392.**

I am a pediatrician practicing on Oahu and a proud graduate of the Imi Ho'ola program. I am a product of our public school system and an immigrant family. My father completed high school and my mother only completed 8th grade due to the cultural revolution in China. English is my second language, but I was able to thrive in public school, attend college, and even completed a Master's degree. My road to success was sprinkled with many challenges. I did not have the luxury of having no financial worries, no cultural gaps, or no gender biases. Nevertheless, I knew my calling was medicine and to serve my community. I am grateful to have been selected for the Imi Ho'ola program. At the time, I was working full-time and living on my own. My family could not support me; they barely supported me through my undergraduate years. The stipend I received during that year helped with rent and food, which allowed me to focus on my studies. My father also died of lung cancer a few days before my final exams. The stipend that I received reminded me that someone believes in me and I can persevere (thank you Art Ushijima and Queen's Health System). I believe that this bill is important for future students and their success.

The Imi Ho'ola program provides a pipeline for physicians to remain in Hawaii. Five of the eight in my class that matriculated to JABSOM are currently practicing in Hawaii (1 on Kaua'i). Although I completed my residency on the mainland, there was always the plan to return to Hawaii despite the astronomical medical school debt I have accumulated. I am now serving our community, but I also give back to our medical school by teaching medical students and residents. I am very mindful that Imi Ho'ola

gave me this opportunity and I have my duty to return the love back to the community and to future physicians.

Imi Ho'ola is a program for disadvantaged students and hope to select those who will serve Hawai'i. This program does not only provide an opportunity to attend medical school but is also a place of love. My very close friends are my Imi classmates. Everyone in the program wants each one of us to succeed and we will always have someone to support us, even when we are practicing physicians. And they were there for me when my father passed away. I do not believe I would have become a physician without the Imi Ho'ola program nor would I have survived without the stipend. If we do not nurture our own, we will probably lose more physicians to competitive salaries and lower cost of living on the mainland. It is very important to me that SB 2392 will pass because it will provide continued support to the Imi Ho'ola program and stipends for future students. Please value the impact of the Imi Ho'ola program and how the stipends have changed lives, not just for the students but also our community. Pass SB 2392 that will appropriate funds for Imi Ho'ola student stipends and for other Imi Ho'ola student support programs at the discretion of the department of Native Hawaiian Health of JABSOM. Thank you so much for your time and the support of the Imi Ho'ola program.

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 10:50:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taralyn Titus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 2392. This bill would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'Å• la student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'Å• la student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

It is crucial to support funding for the 'Imi Ho'Å• la Post-Baccalaureate Program since its program provides a crucial pathway for promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds and people from under-represented communities to succeed and become physicians. 'Imi Ho'Å• la has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies. To date, 278 lmi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians. We need state funding for 'Imi Ho'Å• la to continue to "Grow our own physicians and healthers".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2392.

Mahalo nui loa,

Taralyn Titus

**SB-2392**

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 9:42:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:05:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eryn Nakashima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM),

My name is Eryn Nakashima, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,  
Eryn Nakashima