



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean and  
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, FAAFP  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & DIO, UH JABSOM  
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 1548 HD1 – RELATING TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports HB 1548 HD1 which seeks funding to co-recruit key physician educators with the Veterans Affairs (VA) Pacific Islands Healthcare System. The additional physician educators who would be recruited to Hawai'i would deliver health care for veterans in Hawai'i while supervising medical student and resident training. The physician educators would allow an expansion of graduate medical education (GME) training in partnership with the VA.

Many Hawai'i residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate health care due to shortages of physicians and other health care providers in the State. These shortages threaten individual health and cumulatively adversely affect the State's health care costs. The State's neighbor islands, which have been designated by the federal government as medically underserved areas, have been disproportionately adversely affected by shortages of physicians in all areas of practice.

Over the last decade, JABSOM has engaged in multiple strategies to increase the number of physicians in Hawai'i (and the neighbor islands), including the following:

- Enrolling more students,
- Providing more full-support scholarships for students with educational need,
- Rotating medical students to the neighbor islands for preclinical (up to 12 weeks) rotations,
- Developing longitudinal third-year clinical rotation sites where a small number of students are in the same location (often on a neighbor island) for 5 months,
- Developing a small number of sites for 4-week fourth-year clinical rotations (often on neighbor islands),
- Developing limited residency or fellowship rotations on neighbor islands, and

- Administering the state's loan repayment program that places recipients in underserved communities in exchange for help reducing educational debt.

Based on the most recent data from the Hawai'i physician workforce assessment project, the State has a shortage of 537 full-time equivalent physicians. However, when island geography and unmet specialty-specific needs by county are examined, the estimated unmet need for full-time physicians increases to 732. Primary care, internal medicine, and some specialty physician shortages represent Hawai'i's greatest disciplines of need. Without these physicians, the people of Hawai'i do not have access to the health care they need. JABSOM has shown that eighty percent of graduates who complete their medical school and residency training in the State remain in Hawai'i to practice.

There is a strong existing collaboration between JABSOM and the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Healthcare System, which if expanded can complement the JABSOM strategies to increase the number of physicians in Hawai'i. The VA currently invests in Hawai'i-based residency positions under the oversight of JABSOM using VA-controlled funding to employ physician teachers and support residency training. Residents and Fellows in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and Geriatrics currently conduct a portion of their training in the VA system. With additional physician teachers, increased federal GME support through the VA GME funding programs will enable JABSOM to expand the number of residency rotations and create new training opportunities in gynecology and several internal medicine subspecialties.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1548, H.D. 1

**March 1, 2022**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1548, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine, for the expansion of medical residency and training opportunities in a partnership with the Veterans Administration.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**HB-1548-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 11:04:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Paige Heckathorn Choy	Healthcare Association of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 1, 2022; 12:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1548, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1548, House Draft 1, RELATING TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the expansion of medical residency and training opportunities in partnership with the Veterans Administration.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2060.

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

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1548, House Draft 1**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022; 12:30 p.m.**

**Page 2**

This bill would provide the resources to develop the quality and stock of Hawaii's future healthcare workforce. Accordingly we commend this effort and wish to participate in any and all discussions concerning workforce development.

To demonstrate our commitment to this cause, I'm pleased to report the efforts made by one of our members toward expanding the residency opportunities of health care professionals in the State of Hawaii. (See, "Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center Receives HRSA Grant Funding to Establish a Family Medicine Residency in 2022", dated February 1, 2022, attached.)

**The HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.**

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



**WAIANAЕ COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER**  
[www.wcchc.com](http://www.wcchc.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 1, 2022**

**Contact:** Joanne Keala Patterson  
Director of Public Affairs  
Cell: 808-295-3612/Office: 808-697-3457  
Email: [jpatterson@wcchc.com](mailto:jpatterson@wcchc.com)

**Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center Receives HRSA Grant Funding to  
Establish a Family Medicine Residency in 2022**

**Wai‘anae, Hawaii** — Since Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center’s (WCCHC) inception 50 years ago, the health center has aimed to service its community with compassionate, culturally competent, and comprehensive medical care. WCCHC’s commitment to providing care beyond just the physical body has led to the development of programs offering our patients access to primary, preventive, and enabling services. Another pillar of WCCHC is the health center’s commitment to education.

WCCHC has developed and currently offers community-based and health professional training experience through multiple ventures - our A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine physician training program, New York University Dental Residency Program, Na Lei Kukui nationally-certified Nurse Practitioner Integrated Residency Program, our American Psychological Association-accredited Psychology Internship Program and NIMAA, the nationally recognized Medical Assistant training program. These programs have led to increased healthcare access to primary care, pediatric dentistry, and mental health for the Waianae Coast community

To continue this commitment to service through education, WCCHC is proud to announce the formation of a **Community Health Center-based Family Medicine Residency program at WCCHC**, established through the “Teaching Health Center Planning and Development” grant sponsored by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration. It is anticipated that by 2030, Hawaii will need an additional 318 primary care providers to service our state and more specifically, the communities serviced by community health centers. This shortage is largely due to the aging of the physician ranks, adverse economic factors to practicing in Hawaii and to the lack of continuing education that is provided in the areas that need those providers the most. With the present paradigm, we will never be able to rectify this dearth.

The Family Medicine Residency program is WCCHC’s response to help meeting that need and building a sustainable future for our healthcare community. This future does not start in medical school and is best characterized by WCCHC Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen Bradley, “It is our duty to be intimately involved in fostering the continuum of education from secondary school all the way through medical residency so that the community can heal itself with its medical providers giving back to the community that raised them, and in a culturally appropriate manner.” Together with our state partnerships, WCCHC hopes that this residency program will allow our local medical students more opportunities to stay in Hawaii for their residency training and aid in the longevity of provider-patient relationships that shape communities for generations.

#####

86-260 Farrington Highway, Waianae, Hawaii 96792 - Telephone: (808) 697-3457 - Fax: (808) 697-3687  
Visit our website at: [www.wcchc.com](http://www.wcchc.com)



## TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF HAWAI'I PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To: Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita, and the House Finance Committee members  
From: Dr. Denis Mee-Lee, Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Hawai'i Psychiatric Medical Association  
Time: 12:30 p.m., March 1, 2022  
Re: HB 1548, HD1, RELATING TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the House Finance Committee:

Hawai'i Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in Support of HB 1548, HD1, relating to Graduate Medical Education. The bill appropriates funds to expand medical school and residency training through the Department of Veterans Affairs graduate medical education programs.

HPMA represents between 100 and 200 Physicians, who receive a minimum of four additional years of specialty training in Psychiatry after four years of medical school.

According to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), patients with mental health and substance use disorders often delay care due to an inability to access psychiatrists – a shortage noted across the country and here in the 50<sup>th</sup> State.

In addition to the current and projected physician workforce shortage, the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency has highlighted the need for robust investments to address the nation's critical psychiatric workforce shortage. As noted in this bill, based on a recent Hawai'i physician workforce assessment project, the State has a shortage of 537 full-time equivalent physicians.

Many Hawai'i residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate health care due to physician shortages. The counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kauai, which have been designated by the federal government as medically underserved areas, have been disproportionately adversely affected by physician shortages.

There is a strong existing collaboration between JABSOM and the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Healthcare System, which may complement the JABSOM strategies to increase the number of physicians in Hawai'i. The VA currently invests in Hawai'i-based residency positions under the oversight of JABSOM using VA-controlled funding to employ physician teachers and support residency training in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and Geriatrics.

HPMA supports this collaboration and humbly asks the Finance Committee to also offer support.

We thank the Committee for considering this legislation and our testimony; we are available to provide additional information or answer any questions the Committee may have.

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 12:30 PM  
Via Video Conference

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

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

**Re: HB 1548, HD1 – Testimony In Support  
Relating to Graduate Medical Education**

---

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

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1548, HD1 which appropriates funds to support additional opportunities for medical residencies and training in partnership between the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and the Veterans Affairs.

Based on the most recent data from the Hawaii physician workforce assessment, the State has a shortage of almost 750 full-time physicians. Primary care, internal medicine, and some specialty physician shortages represent Hawaii's greatest area of need. Without these physicians, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the health care they need. JABSOM has shown that eighty per cent of graduates who complete their medical school and residency training, also known as their graduate medical education, in the State remain in Hawaii to practice.

There is strong collaboration between JABSOM and the Veterans Affairs. The Veterans Affairs health system currently invests in Hawaii-based residency positions using a separate federal pool of support. With additional faculty members, the capacity to train additional Hawaii-based residents through the Veterans Affairs program will enable JABSOM to expand the number of residency rotations and create new training opportunities.

In Hawai'i, graduate medical education costs are largely borne by the University of Hawaii and its affiliated health systems. Although some federal dollars have been used by the health systems to cover a portion of the GME training costs, the state can invest and expand medical education training using newly available American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA) money. With the state's investment, JABSOM will be able to educate and train more physicians who will care for Hawai'i's residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

---

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 1, 2022

Re: Support for HB 1548 HD1: Relating to Graduate Medical Education

---

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1548 HD1, which appropriate funds to create further medical residency and training opportunities through a partnership between the John A. Burns school of medicine (JABSOM) and the Veterans Administration (VA). Queen's wholeheartedly supports the intent of these measures to help fund additional medical training for health care professionals seeking to train in and serve our veteran communities.

We support efforts to further develop our healthcare workforce given the projected workforce shortage facing our state; the 2022 Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment estimated the current shortage for physicians to be over 700. Queen's supports our local medical students and graduates who would like to live and work in Hawai'i through internship and residency programs. In FY 2019 Queen's contributed approximately \$16.4 million in education and training to support current and future health care professionals in the community.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony in support of HB 1548 HD1.

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