



February 17, 2022

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair,
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, &
Homelessness

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair,
The Honorable Linda Clark, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Anne Perreira-Eustaquio, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. No. 1549 RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE
PROFESSIONALS**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB1549 proposes to appropriate funds subject to a matching funds requirement for Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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

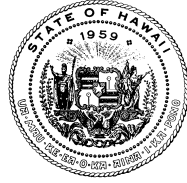
II. CURRENT LAW

N/A.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

Reducing the tremendous burden of student debt will encourage more health professionals to continue working in underserved areas and thereby help reduce the pressing need for healthcare workers in those areas.

For this reason, the Department supports this bill as an effective strategy to address shortages in the healthcare workforce in underserved areas, provided sufficient funds are appropriated and its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request.



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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB1549
RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

REP. RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

REP. GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Hearing Date: February 17, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** General fund appropriation of \$500,000.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the Hawaii State Loan
- 3 Repayment Program given its track record of success. Adequate resources to assure the
- 4 program's continuity is in the best interest of Hawaii's communities.
- 5 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

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
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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 COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &
HOMELESSNESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1549

**February 17, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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

House Bill No. 1549 appropriates \$500,000 in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Health for the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine. The appropriated funds would be subject to a dollar-for-dollar match from a private or another public source.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
And
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

By
Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean and
Kelley Withy, MD, Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health,
Hawai'i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Director
John A. Burns School of Medicine
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1549 – RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Chairs Yamane and Takayama, Vice Chairs Tam and Clark, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The John A. Burns school of medicine (JABSOM) **supports** HB 1549 which seeks funding for the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program administered by JABSOM.

Since September 2012, the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program which is administered by JABSOM has been operating successfully, and has supported 64 recipients in exchange for work commitments in underserved geographic practice areas in Hawai'i. Of the loan repayment participants, 83% have remained in Hawai'i to practice, and 70% have remained at the site where they performed their service. Currently, there are 25 active providers in the program with another 7 waiting for funding.

The Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program leverages public funds and private donations to access matching federal funds through the State Loan Repayment Program of the National Health Service Corps of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Currently, health care professionals who have benefited from the loan repayment program serve on all islands and in the communities of Waimea, Kihei, Wai'anae, Hilo, and Wailuku; at health clinics in Kalihi-Pālana and Kookia Kalihi Valley; and in public institutional settings at the federal detention center in Honolulu, the Hālawā correctional facility and the Maui County correctional center. Health care professionals who are eligible to participate in the program include physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, and many others.

Many Hawai'i residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate health care due to shortages of primary and behavioral health care professionals in the State. These shortages not only threaten individual health, but also cumulatively affect the State's health care costs. Areas of Hawai'i that have been designated by the federal government as medically underserved have been most significantly affected by shortages of primary and behavioral health care professionals, such as physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and psychologists. Social workers, marriage and family therapists, and nurses are also urgently needed in these areas.

In many cases, the increasingly high cost of education for health care professionals binds graduates to a career path designed to repay often exorbitant student loans. These career paths most frequently lead to professional practice in highly specialized practice in urban areas rather than in general practice on the neighbor islands or in underserved areas of O'ahu where the need is greatest. Furthermore, those states with robust primary health care systems have lower costs and improved patient outcomes. Recognizing this correlation, many states have made the policy decision to dedicate public funds to loan repayment programs to help develop a strong primary health care workforce for underserved areas.

An investment of State matching funds would enable JABSOM to draw as much federal money as possible and allow the program to provide loan repayment to more health care professionals in our ongoing efforts to alleviate the health care professional shortages in Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
and
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM
via Videoconference
by
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on HB 1549

Chairs Yamane and Takayama, Vice Chairs Tam and Clark, and members of the House Committees on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness and Higher Education & Technology, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of HB 1549**, loan repayment for health care professionals.

In Hawai'i, health care professionals are in high demand yet in low supply, particularly on the neighbor islands and in rural and underserved areas of our state. This situation includes all of Hawai'i and Kaua'i Counties as well as most of Maui County. Though population dense, O'ahu also has areas that are medically underserved.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing acknowledges that supporting healthcare professionals including nurses, by reducing their personal expenses through loan repayment, is one way to recruit and retain these valued people in and across our state. This program has proven success year after year in supporting health care professionals in starting and continuing service in rural areas and underserved areas in our state. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing **provides testimony in support of HB 1549 both for the intent of the measure and for full funding of this initiative.**

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

HB-1549

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 12:47:35 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments:

The East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation supports HB 1549 that appropriates funds for the Hawaii state loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns school of medicine, subject to a matching funds requirement.

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF HAWAII PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To: Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice-Chair Adrian Tam
Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice-Chair Linda Clark
Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology

From: Dr. Marva Lawson, Legislative Committee Co-Chair
Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association

Time: 11:00 a.m., February 17, 2022

Re: HB 1549, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Position: **SUPPORT**

On behalf of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) we are writing in support of HB 1549, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. This bill appropriates funds for the Hawaii state loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns school of medicine, subject to a matching funds requirement. We support the legislature's efforts to address a significant shortage of primary and behavioral health care professionals in the State which not only threaten individual health, but the entire State's health care system.

According to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), those with mental health and substance use disorders often delay care due to an inability to access psychiatrists. A persistent shortage of psychiatrists contributes to the lack of access across the country. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, while the supply of adult psychiatrists is expected to decrease 20% by 2030, the demand for their services is expected to increase by 3%, leaving a shortage of over 12,000 fully-trained psychiatrists. 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, the need for Hawai'i primary and behavioral health care professionals is significant. This bill is an important step toward addressing the health care professional gap.

HPMA is a professional, non-profit corporation serving psychiatrists in Hawai'i. It is organized for the purpose of supporting professionalism in the practice of psychiatry and promoting top quality mental health care. HPMA fulfills a dual role, serving as a state association which focuses on local issues and as a district branch of the APA linking HPMA members with developments in mental health care taking place regionally and nationally.

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

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Linda Clark, Vice Chair

February 17, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: HB 1549, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1549, which appropriate funds to the department of health to fund the Hawaii state loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns school of medicine of the University of Hawaii at Manoa to provide loan repayment for certain healthcare providers who agree to work in a federally-designated health professional shortage area.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 1549.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Each day, more than 4,400 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and providers come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i to care for our members at our 20 medical facilities, including Moanalua Medical Center, providing high-quality care for our members and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. Therefore, we **recommend inclusion of areas served by rural health clinics as part of underserved geographic areas.** Hawai'i has a shortage of about 1,000 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. In 2020, approximately 110 physicians were found to have retired, 120 decreased their work hours, and 140 physicians left the state, further contributing to the physician shortage. Without these doctors and other healthcare providers, the people of Hawai'i do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on neighbor islands and underserved areas served by rural health centers. The funding from

this loan repayment program, will create opportunities directly in the state to recruit and retain our physician workforce.

We ask the committees to PASS HB 1549. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM
Via Video Conference

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Linda Clark, Vice Chair

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

**Re: HB 1549 – Testimony In Support
Relating to Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawaii Pacific Health. Hawaii 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 Hawaii.

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1549 which appropriates funds for the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program administered by the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The continuation of the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program that supports payments of educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and certified nurse midwives who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii plays a vital role in addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals in the state. Hawaii has a shortage of almost 750 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii do not have access to the healthcare they need. The shortage is most acute for those on the neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is through loan repayment.

JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 64 healthcare providers since the program began in 2012. To date, nearly 2/3 of those providers continue to work in underserved communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Established in 1998, the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization dedicated to addressing rural health needs across our island state.

~ Working Together To Promote Healthy Rural Communities ~

Executive Board:

Lisa Rantz, Hawai'i
Judy Mikami, Moloka'i
Valerie Janikowski, Lana'i
Cristin Gallagher, Hawai'i

Board At Large:

Kimberly Kobayashi, Hawai'i
Jessie Marques, Ka'u
Kanani Kaye, Kaua'i
Bridget Collins, Kaua'i
Ray Ho, Kaua'i
Laura Reichhardt, O'ahu
Puanani Hee, Kaua'i
Gregg Kishaba, O'ahu
Kelley Withy, O'ahu

Priorities:

Rural Provider Shortages
Workforce Development
Opioid and Substance Abuse
Primary Prevention
Health Equity

Hawaii State Rural Health Association

140 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

hsrhacoordinator@gmail.com
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Instagram @hawaiiiruralhealth
Twitter @HawaiiRural
Twitter @Hawaii_ECHO



HAWAI'I STATE RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

February 17, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Via Video Conference

Health, Human Services & Homelessness and Higher Education & Technology Committees

To: Representatives Yamane and Takayama, Chairs
Representatives Tam and Clark, Vice Chairs

From: Lisa Rantz
President, Hawaii State Rural Health Association

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 1549
Relating to Loan Repayment for Healthcare Professionals**

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) respectfully submits written testimony in strong support of HB 1549.

As a non-profit rural health association, our mission is to advocate for rural health issues and promote communication, education and research of issues related to rural health. Our vision is that we are the collaborative health leader for rural communities in Hawai'i.

This measure funds the John A. Burns school of medicine loan repayment for healthcare professionals program, subject to a matching funds requirements. HSRHA maintains the Barry Taniguchi Health Professions Subsidy Program, which has funded the match for providers on Hawaii Island who qualify for this loan repayment program. We are committed to matching funds, and continue to seek other revenue sources from committed rural partners, so that the matches needed for this funding, are secured.

The rural areas of Hawaii have the gravest provider shortages in our state. We also know that physicians are more likely to practice where they were educated. Improving access to graduate medical education will help infuse physicians back into our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the intent and funding of this measure.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Linda Clark, Vice Chair

Date: February 17, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

**Re: HB 1549 Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program; Health Care Professionals;
John A. Burns School of Medicine; Appropriation
Position: Support**

Currently Hawaii has 3,293 physicians providing care in our state, and there is a statewide shortage of 732 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs), as reported in the 2022 UH Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project. Since 2012, support from the Hawaii State Legislature in partnership with JABSOM, HMSA and Queens Medical Center through the State Loan Repayment Program has helped to recruit physicians to Hawaii practice. HMA is grateful for the continued support of this financial assistance program, particularly for needed recruitment to counties like Hawaii and Maui, where provider shortages are the worst at 40%.

It remains an important priority for Hawaii physicians to sustain quality healthcare in Hawaii and maintain the delivery of vital services to our underserved areas, particularly on the neighbor islands. The Loan Repayment Program must be sustained to support young physician trainees and improve our Hawaii physician workforce that remains critically low.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

continued

HMA OFFICERS

President – Angela Pratt, MD President-Elect – Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD
Immediate Past President – Michael Champion, MD Treasurer – Nadine Tenn Salle, MD
Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD Executive Director – Marc Alexander



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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REFERENCES

Withy K et al. UH System Annual Report to the 2022 Legislature on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project.

Associated Press. Shortage of Hawaii Doctors Worsens During COVID-19 Pandemic.
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/hawaii/articles/2021-01-06/shortage-of-hawaii-doctorsworsens-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Hiraishi K. "Hawai'i Doctor Shortage Worsens Under Pandemic." Hawaii Public Radio. Jan 5, 2021. <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/hawai-i-doctor-shortage-worsens-underpandemic>

HMA OFFICERS

President – Angela Pratt, MD President-Elect – Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD
Immediate Past President – Michael Champion, MD Treasurer – Nadine Tenn Salle, MD
Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD Executive Director – Marc Alexander



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Health, Human Services, and
Homelessness and Higher Education and Technology
Thursday, February 17, 2022; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1549, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

Chair Yamane, Chair Takayama, 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. 1549, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

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 \$500,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program so long as no funds be released unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from a private or another public source.

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. 1549

Thursday, February 17, 2022; 11:00 a.m.

Page 2

This bill would provide the resources to continue a financial incentive that enhances 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.

For this reason, the HPCA supports this bill.

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



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Linda Clark, Vice Chair
Member, House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

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

Date: February 17, 2022

Re: HB 1549: Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

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 support of HB 1549, which appropriates funds for the Hawaii state loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine; provided that the funds are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by a private or another public source.

We support efforts to develop our healthcare workforce given the projected shortage in 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. The burden of student loans and Hawai'i's high cost of living can act as barrier to attracting and retaining healthcare professionals. This loan repayment program has a record of success in keeping quality health care professionals in our state and we wholeheartedly support funding this program moving forward.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony in support of HB 1549.

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.



February 17, 2022 at 11:00 am
Via Videoconference

House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

To: Chair Ryan I. Yamane
Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam

House Committee on Higher Education and Technology

To: Chair Gregg Takayama
Vice Chair Linda Clark

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support
HB 1549, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony in support of this measure and funding.

HB-1549

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:25:36 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
stephanie marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an RN for over 40 years and retired UH Manoa Nursing Faculty, I fully support this bill in appropriating funds for the Hawaii state loan repayment program.

I have witnessed over the years it's value in supporting our future health care workforce.

Please pass this critical measure

Stephanie Marshall RN, FAAN

HB-1549

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 3:17:35 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katherine Finn Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

HB-1549

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 12:27:37 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative Yamane, Chair, and the members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness, and Representative Takayama, Chair, and the members of the Committee on Higher Education and Technology,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of HB1549 which relates to loan repayment for health care professionals. We all know that there are not enough health care professionals to take care of our communities in Hawaii, especially on Maui where I am an OB/Gyn. As a mentor to pre-medical students and their parents, I often hear the comment that the parents are not encouraging their children to become physicians due to the high costs. When I tell them there are programs such as loan repayment, you can see the relief in both the parents and students' faces. Please do not stop this program. It is vital to decrease the economic and financial inequities that occur with many students and families.

Please support HB1549 and thank you for your kind consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Colleen F Inouye MD MMM MS-PopH FACHE FAAPL FACOG

HB-1549

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 3:01:22 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathleen Yokouchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support

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Testimony of Donald Sakamoto before the HHH/HET committees (Hawaii State House Thirty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2022 February 17, 2022, 11:00 AM, hearing on HB1419. Good morning chairs, vice chairs, and members. I am Donald Sakamoto, fully supporting Hb1419.

The advent of the information age is rapidly replacing conventional printed communications with use of electronic information technology in employment, education, and receipt of services. State entities have particular needs and responsibilities to provide everyone with equal and convenient access to communications relating to programs they conduct. Examples include both dissemination of information as well as completing and submitting electronic forms online, whether by employees or the public.

Access for people with disabilities is possible however, too often it is not considered as new technologies are designed and deployed. Great strides have been made to create accessible technology tools. These tools include screen readers able to report words on a computer screen by voice or Braille output for people who are blind, and sign language interpretation or captioning of audio presentations for people who are deaf.

State entities are making progress to fully embrace the Information Age. Doing so can really have enormous advantages when the technology is well designed and accessible. We use the term "accessible" in this context to mean the technology is disability barrier free, and, in that respect, we need the current performance of state entities to be uneven.

Ready access to and use of electronic information technology is essential for all citizens to participate equally in all state programs and services, and to receive and enjoy the benefits of the state's programs and services, which must by law be equally available without regard to disability. Cost-efficient techniques and products exist to make modern communications technology accessible to individuals with disabilities by proactively addressing accessibility at the time of planning, design, development, and procurement of electronic information technology.

Recognizing this, the purpose of this bill is to establish and implement standards for providing access to electronic information technology developed, purchased, and used by state entities.

The point of this bill is standards. Disability access to electronic information technology just won't happen without standards.

As far as access is concerned, the existing law is very clear on this. People with disabilities are supposed to have access to information and services that is equivalent to access provided to persons without disabilities. The goal of equivalent disability access is pretty well known however, far less often achieved. The reason is lack of clearly applicable standards to guide design, procurement, and deployment. Equivalent disability access must become part of the product specification. That's the point of this bill.

It's one thing to talk about disability access barriers in the abstract but quite another thing to experience these barriers for yourself. For example, try to navigate the Hawaii State Reapportionment Maps for instance as a blind person with a screen reader. Not showing our aloha, that's for sure. Can it be done? Partly yes, and partly no. Just having the maps first shown on the state's election website in the middle of last year 2021 without no PDF description during their public input is one of several barriers. I'm sure we can do better. HB1419 holds promise that we will do better. In passing this bill the legislature will make a powerful statement on behalf of equal rights and equal opportunity especially for blind people, this is an essential twenty-first century civil rights bill. Also, it will also become an important key to independence and equality for people with disabilities in our state.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and understanding why we truly need it passed into law!

HB-1549

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 2:11:02 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Heather Miura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Heather Miura

Hawaii Residency Programs Psychiatry Residency

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02/17/22

I support HB1549.

As a first year psychiatry resident physician from the University of Hawaii Psychiatry Residency Program, I support measure HB1549. I am testifying in favor of this measure. Based on personal experience, I hope to one day become a practicing psychiatrist in the state of Hawaii and this measure being passed would better allow me to do so with more financial freedom following completion of my residency training program given the high cost of living in the state of Hawaii, high cost of student loans and limited housing options. Therefore, I am testifying again in support of measure HB1549 relating to loan repayment for healthcare professionals.

HB-1549

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 3:04:52 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/17/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Alexander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi my name is Samuel Alexander from Hawaii Residency Program. I am in support of this bill. Health care professionals go through many years of education that require student loan assistance to obtain the skills for a job to pay back student loans. During this time interest is accrued on loans making it additionally difficult to pay off this debt. Hawaii is one of the more expensive places to live and having assistance with forgiveness of loans makes it more practical to live in Hawaii to practice medicine without undue burden. I am in support of the forgiveness of loans for healthcare professionals. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.