



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 1:00 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

SB 2655 – RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND

Chairs Keohokalole and Kim, Vice Chairs Baker and Kidani, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The John A. Burns school of medicine (JABSOM) **supports SB 2655** which reestablishes the Hawai'i Medical Education special fund, provided that its passage does not replace, or impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

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. 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.

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 disciplines of greatest 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.

The Hawai'i Medical Education Council (HMEC) is tasked with monitoring the state's graduate medical education (GME) programs, physician residency and fellowship training, and their ability to meet the health care workforce requirements. According to

HMEC's 2022 report to the legislature¹, GME programs, especially those in primary care, geriatrics, psychiatry (adults and children) and addiction serve a high proportion of the state's most vulnerable populations. Yet, there has been a reduction in the overall civilian GME positions offered in Hawai'i from 241 in 2009 to 230 in 2021. Nationally, Hawai'i is in the bottom quintile of GME positions per population. Decreased federal and state funding has had a significant impact on the number of available training positions.

Ongoing funding of both undergraduate medical education (medical school) and GME is vital in addressing the physician shortage in Hawai'i. Reestablishing the Hawai'i Medical Education special fund will allow optimal use of state funding to support GME and assure close monitoring by the university and legislature of the specific application of state funds for GME programs, especially those focused on enhancing neighbor island workforce needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

¹ https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2022/hrs304a-1704_2022_hawaii-medical-education-council_annual-report_508.pdf

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OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2655

February 9, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND

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

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2655 reestablishes the Hawai'i Medical Education Special Fund to provide funding for medical education and training in Hawai'i, with an emphasis on supporting residency training on the neighbor islands and in medically underserved populations throughout the State.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 2655, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

B&F defers to the University of Hawai'i regarding program implementation and funding.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 1:00 PM
Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Higher Education

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

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

**Re: SB 2655 – Testimony In Support
Relating to Medical Education Special Fund**

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 SB 2655 which reestablishes the Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund.

The Hawaii Medical Education Council (HMEC) is tasked with overseeing the state's graduate medical education programs and the programs' ability to meet the health care workforce requirements. Additionally, HMEC must ensure adequate funding of health care training programs, in particular graduate medical education. According to HMEC's 2022 report to the legislature, graduate medical education programs, especially those in primary care, geriatrics, psychiatry (adults and children) and addiction serve a high proportion of the most vulnerable populations. Yet, there has been a reduction in the overall graduate medical education positions in Hawaii from 241 in 2009 to 230 in 2021. Nationally, Hawaii is in the bottom quintile of the graduate medical education positions per population. Decreased federal and state funding have had a significant impact on the number of available training positions.

Ongoing funding of medical education is vital in addressing the physician shortage in Hawaii. There are considerable public outcomes achieved by expanding capacity for training medical students especially on the neighbor island with the goal of having these students ultimately remain in Hawaii to practice. Reestablishing the Hawaii Medical Education special fund which may be utilized as a means of funding graduate medical education and training is a key component to supporting an expansion of graduate medical education positions and opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Higher Education
Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2655, RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND.

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Kim, 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** Senate Bill No. 2655, RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND.

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

This bill, as received by your Committee, would reestablish the Hawaii Medical Education Council Special Fund to enable the John A. Burns School of Medicine in consultation with the Hawaii Medical Education Council to provide funding for medical education and training in Hawaii with emphasis on supporting residency training on the neighbor islands and in medically underserved populations throughout the State.

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 Senate Bill No. 2655
Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
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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.

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.

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF HAWAII PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Rosalyn Baker
Chair Donna Kim, Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani
Members of the Committee on Health and Committee on Higher Education

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

Time: 1:00 p.m., February 9, 2022

Re: SB 2655, RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND

Position: **SUPPORT**

On behalf of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) we are writing in support of SB 2655, Relating to Medical Education Special Fund. This bill re-established the Medical Education Special Fund with the purpose of supporting residency training on the neighbor islands and in medically underserved populations throughout the State.

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.

SB-2655

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:19:10 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Senate Committee on Higher Education,

I strongly support the passage of SB 2655 to reestablish the Hawaii Medical Education Council's Special Fund to provide funding for medical education and training in Hawaii, with an emphasis on supporting residency training on the neighbor islands and in medically underserved populations throughout the State.

As a lifelong Hawaii resident and a senior citizen, it is vital for us to expand this strategy to recruit interested medical students from Hawaii, other states and internationally to apply for medical residency in Hawaii. Hopefully, this creates an opportunity for increasing our medical professionals community to remain and practice in the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2655.

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

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HAWAII STATE RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

February 09, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Via Video Conference

Senate Committees on Health and Higher Education

To: Senators Keohokalole and Kim, Chairs
Senators Baker and Kidani, Vice Chairs

From: Lisa Rantz
President, Hawaii State Rural Health Association

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 2655
Relating to Medical Education Special Fund**

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) respectfully submits written testimony in strong support of S.B. 2655.

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 will enable John A. Burns school of medicine to expand the graduate medical education positions by re-establishing the special fund as a means of ongoing funding for graduate medical education and training programs and to support an expansion of key positions.

The rural areas of Hawaii have the gravest physician 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.