



# 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 2657 – RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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 2657** which seeks funding to expand graduate medical education (residency and specialty fellowship training) to the neighbor islands, 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 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.

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 areas 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.

JABSOM serves as the Sponsoring Institution for the bulk of the civilian residency programs in Hawai'i, ensuring high-quality and accredited resident education programs

or Graduate Medical Education (GME). The Hawai'i Island Family Medicine Residency program, sponsored by the Hilo Medical Center, plays a very important role in addressing the rural family physician shortage, but additional resources are needed to expand training, in numerous high-need specialties throughout Hawai'i. JABSOM faculty provide educational program leadership and clinical supervision of about 230 residents and subspecialty fellow trainees in nineteen specialty programs annually. In Hawai'i, GME costs are largely borne by the University of Hawai'i and its affiliated health systems. Some federal dollars have been used by the health systems to cover a portion of the GME training costs. Even pre-COVID, all health systems that support GME have been fiscally constrained and unable to make significant investments in additional GME training positions, especially on the neighbor islands which are most acutely impacted by physician workforce shortages.

In addition, the GME programs sponsored by JABSOM are considered lower priority for new CMS GME positions based on current Federal definitions and regulations. Thus, to expand residency training, especially on the neighbor islands where it is most needed and in several specialty areas, JABSOM needs annual state investment to cover resident and administrative support personnel positions as well as partial salary support for practicing physicians to supervise and evaluate the trainees.

With the state's investment, JABSOM will be able to leverage existing partnerships to educate and train more physicians who will care for Hawai'i's residents, during and following their GME training.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Government Relations Director

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Higher Education  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice chair

February 9, 2022  
1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

**Re: SB 2657, Relating to Medical Education and Training**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Kim, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2657, which appropriates funds to create more residencies and training opportunities on the neighbor islands for medical students at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS SB 2657.**

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.

We support SB 2657 because it will provide more residency opportunities on the neighbor islands, where healthcare providers are most needed. According to the latest Physician Workforce Assessment Annual Report, the physician shortage on Hawai'i Island, Maui County, and Kauai exceeds that of Oahu. We believe that by expanding residency training opportunities on the neighbor islands will acquaint graduate physicians with medicine in rural settings, plus strengthen and enlarge "faculty practice" on the neighbor islands.

We ask the committees to PASS SB 2657. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



**February 9, 2022 at 1:00 pm**  
**Via Videoconference**

**Senate Committee on Health**

To: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole  
Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

To: Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

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

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**SB 2657, Relating to Medical Education and Training**

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 a substantial investment in establishing additional training opportunities for physicians in the state, especially in underserved areas. We understand that this measure is focused on expanding residency training opportunities on the neighbor islands, which we believe is an important expansion to help address the most underserved areas in our state.

The pandemic exacerbated existing workforce shortages in the state for physicians, nurses, and other allied healthcare professions that are critical to providing high-quality care for all residents in Hawaii. We support this critical investment in our physician workforce and would urge the legislature to continue their focus and support of all healthcare professions and building a robust healthcare workforce pipeline to ensure access now and into the future.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

---

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Member, Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Date: February 9, 2022

Re: Support for SB 2656 and SB 2657: Relating to Medical Education and Training

---

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 SBs 2656 and 2657, which appropriate funds to create further medical residency and training opportunities through a partnership between the John A. Burns school of medicine (JABSOM), the Veterans Administration (VA), and the neighbor islands. 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 neighbor island and 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 SB 2656 and SB 2657.

*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.*

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH  
AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2657

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

RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

Senate Bill No. 2657 appropriates \$6,700,000 in 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 on the neighbor islands.

B&F notes that the FY 23 Executive Supplemental Budget includes a budget request to add 20.00 full-time equivalent positions and \$2,040,000 in general funds for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine, to create more medical residents and training opportunities on the neighbor islands.

B&F also 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.

**SB-2657**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:34:28 PM

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

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

Comments:

The East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health System Corporation, which consists of Hilo Medical Center, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua in Honoka`a, Ka`u Hospital, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home, and the East Hawaii Health Clinics, is in **strong support of SB2657** that appropriates funds to create more residencies and training opportunities on the neighbor islands for medical students at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.





**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376  
www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle N Kidani, Vice Chair

Date: February 9, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

**Re: SB 2657 Medical Residencies and Training; John A. Burns School of Medicine; University of Hawaii; Appropriation**  
**Position: Support**

Currently Hawaii has 3,293 physicians providing care in our state, and there is a statewide shortage of 732 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs), as reported in the 2022 UH Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project <sup>1</sup>. By county, the physician shortages are most critical on the neighbor islands (see chart below):

Table 2: Physician Shortage by County 2021

	Honolulu County	Maui County	Hawai'i County	Kauai County	Statewide
Shortage	<b>344</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>732</b>
Percent	<b>15%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>22%</b>

HMA supports this bill that would appropriate funds to create more residencies and training opportunities on the neighbor islands. 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. This measure will 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**

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

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

[www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org](http://www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org)

**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-doctors-worsens-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-under-pandemic>

**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

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 2657 – Testimony In Support  
Relating to Medical Education and Training**

---

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 2657 which appropriates funds to create more residency positions and training opportunities on the neighbor islands at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

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. The need for physicians is especially acute on the neighbor islands. 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.

In Hawai'i, graduate medical education costs are largely borne by the University of Hawaii and its affiliated health systems. Some federal dollars have been used by the health systems to cover a portion of the GME training costs. Pre-COVID, the health systems

were constrained and unable to make significant investments in more GME training, especially on the neighbor islands that are most acutely impacted by physician workforce shortages. In addition, Hawai'i is considered a lower priority for new CMS GME positions based on current Federal definitions and regulations. Thus, to expand residency training, especially on the neighbor islands where it is most needed, JABSOM needs annual state investment to cover resident and administrative support personnel positions as well as some salary support to allow practicing physicians sufficient time to supervise and evaluate the trainees.

With the state's investment, JABSOM together with the health systems will be able to educate and train more physicians who will care for Hawai'i's residents.

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. 2657, RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

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. 2657, RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

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 appropriate \$6,700,00 in general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the creation of additional medical residencies and training opportunities for medical students on the neighbor islands.

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. 2657**  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 1:00 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.

**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](mailto: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 2657, RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Position: **SUPPORT**

On behalf of the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) we are writing in support of SB 2657, Relating to Medical Education and Training. This bill appropriates funds to create more residencies and training opportunities on the neighbor islands for medical students at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

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-2657**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 6:48:22 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Keohokalole, Chair, and the Committee on Health and Senator Mercado Kim, Chair, and the Committee on Higher Education,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of SB2657 which allows for more training and residency opportunities on the Neighbor Islands. I am an OB/Gyn on Maui. I have mentored both JABSOM medical students and headed the OB/Gyn residency program when it was at Maui Memorial Medical Center. I have seen from both students and residents, when they are exposed to training programs/opportunities on Maui, they do consider practicing on Maui. In fact, there have been four (4) OB/Gyns that came through this type of opportunity pathway and settled on Maui.

Please support SB2657 and thank you for your kind attention to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Colleen F Inouye MD MMM MS-PopH FACHE FAAPL FACOG



**SB-2657**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:34:33 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 2657 to appropriate funding to create more residencies and training opportunities on the neighbor islands for medical students at the UH School of Medicine. We need to level the field for our neighbor island counties to have adequate general practitioners and medical specialists to serve their residents on their respective island. It is a burden for our neighbor island residents to have to travel to Hawaii if their available medical resources are limited or not available.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 2657.