

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1761

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 21**

, 2023

RE: S.B. No. 164  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health & Homelessness, to which was referred S.B. No. 164, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program to provide loan repayment for health care professionals who commit to work in a federally-designated health professional shortage area in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i, Hawai'i Pacific Health, AlohaCare, Hawai'i Primary Care Association, Hawaii Medical Association, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Hawaii Dental Association, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, The Queen's Health System, Hawai'i Psychological Association, The Hawaiian Islands Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, National Association of Social Workers - Hawaii Chapter, Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights, Hawaii Medical Service Association, and one individual.

2023-2605 SB164 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program, which is administered by the John A. Burns School of Medicine, has achieved considerable success in educating, training, and recruiting health care professionals to work in underserved areas. This program leverages public funds and private donations to access matching federal funds through the State Loan Repayment Program of the National Health Service Corps Branch of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Since September 2012, the loan repayment program has supported seventy-six recipients in exchange for work commitments in underserved geographic practice areas in Hawaii, eighty percent of whom have remained in the State to practice after graduation. The state matching funds appropriated by this measure will enable the John A. Burns School of Medicine to draw down as much federal money as possible and allow the program to provide loan repayment to more health care professionals, which will help in the ongoing efforts to alleviate the health care professional shortages in the State.

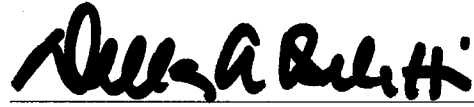
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the name of the federal program that underwrites the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program is the National Health Service Corps Branch State Loan Repayment Program; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 164, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 164, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health &  
Homelessness,



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DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



