DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D. DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HOUSE BILL 916 Relating To Loan Repayment For Health Care Professionals

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA BELATTI, CHAIR HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Hearing Date: January 31, 2017 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$250,000 general fund appropriation to the Department of Health.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports a robust loan repayment program

3 for health care professionals to increase provider supply and access to care in rural and

4 underserved areas, and recognizes the leadership of the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the

5 University of Hawaii at Manoa in assuring the success of this resource.

6 The department defers to the University of Hawaii on the sufficiency of an appropriation request,

7 and so long as it does not replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

- 8 **Offered Amendments:** None.
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16

PRESENTATION OF THE HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2017

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:30 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 916, RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board

("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 916,

Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. The Board has not had an

opportunity to discuss this measure, but will do so at its next meeting on February 9, 2017.

Therefore, the Board is not able to offer comments or a position on this bill at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 916.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am by Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean and Kelley Withy, MD, Professor, Department of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Hawai'i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Director John A. Burns School of Medicine University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 916 - RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 916, <u>provided that its</u> <u>passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of</u> <u>Regents Approved Biennium Budget</u>. This measure permits continuation of the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i. This program is possible through a grant from the federal government but requires a local dollar for dollar match. Funds have been provided in the past from HMSA, Queens, AlohaCare, University Health Alliance, Ohana Health Plan, Maui Memorial, Lanai Community Health Center and Kalihi Palama Health Center. However the funds provided are not enough to maintain the program. <u>Without State support, Hawai'i will not be able to reapply for the grant, and the program will end</u>.

Hawai'i has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. Without these 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 those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. The Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program has helped 25 providers since its inception in 2012. Of the program graduates, 2/3 are still practicing in underserved areas of Hawai'i.

In 2016, 64% of JABSOM residents and fellows had a current student loan burden. The average student loan indebtedness of our JABSOM MD residents/fellows is \$235,000, with some residents having loans in the \$300,000-600,000 range. These loans, with average minimum monthly payment of \$500, begin repayment while in residency training, in addition to the high cost of living, rent and other living expenses. The high cost of college and medical education results in large student loan debt -- which

detracts from physicians choosing primary care specialties and choosing to practice in underserved or rural communities.

If a physician does his or her medical school AND residency (or Graduate Medical Education or GME) training here in Hawai'i, about 80% of them stay in Hawai'i to practice. Having loan repayment options tied to commitments to serve in neighborisland, rural and underserved populations will help to reduce the physician shortages in those areas. The loan repayment program has played an important role in bringing needed physicians and healthcare providers to underserved areas.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawai'i and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.





January 31, 2017 at 8:30 AM Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

- To: Chair Della Au Belatti Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
- From: Paige Heckathorn Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support HB 916, 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 180 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.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** HB 916, which would provide \$250,000 in funding to help students who are educated in Hawaii in the medical field receive help repaying their loans after graduation. This measure is important because it will encourage these students to stay and practice in the state. It is critical that we invest in programs to develop and retain providers here in Hawaii so that we can start to address the shortages that are particularly problematic on our neighbor islands.

This funding will create new opportunities for students in the state and provide needed incentives to strengthen the workforce. For example, it has been shown that of physicians who receive their medical degree and their training here in Hawaii, 80 percent will stay and practice in that community or one nearby. We are appreciative of attempts to direct funding towards effective and important programs such as this and humbly request your support for this measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Affiliated with the American Hospital Association, American Health Care Association, National Association for Home Care and Hospice, American Association for Homecare and Council of State Home Care Associations

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Friday, January 27, 2017 5:27 PM
То:	HLTtestimony
Cc:	dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB916 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM
Categories:	Red Category

<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/27/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Shaw	Lanai Community Health Center	Support	No

Comments: this program is vitally important to rural communities - especially like Lanai. When working with the National Health Service, we constantly lose good candidates to urban areas - Oahu and Maui. However, with this state program, Lanai Community Health Center is able to donate to the State Program for its employees, which in turn is matched by federal funding. It is the ONLY program where a rural community like Lanai is guaranteed to get the loan payment for our employees. I strongly support this bill and ask that you do the same.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.



January 31, 2017; 8:30 am

Conference Room 329

House Health

- To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Betrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
- From: Michael Robinson Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: HB 916 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of HB 916 which requests an appropriation for the healthcare professionals loan repayment program administered through 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 over 500 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 neighbor islands and those with the least resources. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 25 healthcare providers since the program begain in 2012. To date, 2/3 of those providers continue to work in underserved communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair Members, Committee on Health

From: Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: January 29, 2017

Hrg: Senate Committee on Health Hearing; Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am in Room 329

Re: Support for HB 916, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **support** for HB 916, Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals. This bill makes an appropriation for the health care professionals loan repayment program administered through the John S. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). The loan repayment program provides financial assistance to certain health care workers who agree to work in a federally-designated health professional shortage area or an area of Hawaii found to be underserved.

At QHS, we support our local students and graduates who would like to live and work in Hawaii through internship and residency programs. In FY 2015 we spent \$14.4 million in education and training to support current and future health care professionals in the community. It is evident that the high cost of living in Hawaii, coupled with the prospect of having to pay back student loans, creates a real barrier for students who may be interested in pursuing a career in rural or medically underserved areas of the state. Hawaii currently experiences a shortage of over 500 physicians and almost all other types of primary and behavioral health care workers particularly in rural and underserved areas. Providing financial assistance to students interested in health care careers is one way that we can start to address this issue.

This legislation shows a commitment to and investment in our local students and communities. Loan repayment programs will support efforts to fill in gaps in the state's health care workforce and will also benefit our underserved communities.

We ask you to support the health care professionals loan repayment program. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

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.

HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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

FROM: HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION Dr. Christopher Flanders, Executive Director Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Representative Della Au Belatti Chair

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE:	Tuesday, January 31, 2017
TIME:	8:30 a.m.
PLACE:	Conference Room 329
	State Capitol

HB 916 Position: Support

The Physician Workforce Assessment estimated that in 2015, Hawaii faced a physician shortage of about 655 FTE's that will increase to 800 FTE's across all specialties by 2020. An acute physician shortage will have a profound impact on health care access, quality and costs, especially for native Hawaiians who are already underserved. With an average medical student debt for indebted graduates of \$160,000, debt plays a major role in career decisions and impacts the supply of our state's physicians.

Medical education remains the most expensive postsecondary education in the United States, with over one-third of all graduates carrying debt balances of more than \$200,000. This significant financial burden can have a considerable effect on students' choice of practice area. Although many students enter medical school planning to pursue family medicine, geriatrics or other careers in primary care, pressure arising from debt concerns often cause graduates to eschew these goals in order to pursue higher paying specialties. This high debt burden may dissuade students from attending medical school altogether, especially students from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. According to surveys of the American Association of Medical Colleges, under-represented minorities cited cost of attendance as the top deterrent to applying to medical school. With recent health reforms seeking to eliminate health care disparities amongst the U.S. population, increasing the number of minority physicians is important to ensure a work force more reflective of the general population.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Bernard Robinson, MD President-Elect – William Wong, Jr., MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD Immediate Past President – Scott McCaffrey, MD Treasurer – Michael Champion, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



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

The American Medical Association recommends:

- Making medical student loan interest rates variable and capped at no more than 5 percent
- Income tax exemptions for medical student scholarships
- Making medical student loan interest fully tax deductible for borrowers
- Creating more opportunities for debt relief through tuition assistance and loan forgiveness programs

Reducing medical student indebtedness promotes diversity within medicine and may contribute to a reduction in the shortage of primary care physicians. Fair, low interest rates, tax relief, tuition assistance, and loan forgiveness and repayment programs lower barriers to medical education for disadvantaged students. In addition, borrowers with less debt are more likely to begin careers in medical education and research, practice medicine in medically underserved areas, or enter careers in public health service.

The HMA supports access to medical care for underserved populations by providing student loan repayment options for primary care physicians serving in communities with limited access to health services.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Bernard Robinson, MD President-Elect – William Wong, Jr., MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD Immediate Past President – Scott McCaffrey, MD Treasurer – Michael Champion, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am by Patricia McKenzie

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However, without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

I have been working at Waianae Comprehensive Health Center as a Family and Woman's Health Nurse Practitioner since 1990. When I went back to school to receive my Master's degree so that I could continue to serve this community I incurred roughly \$80,000 debt. Receiving help from the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program allows me to stay in this community and continue to serve.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other

funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Patricia K McKenzie, APRN

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Sunday, January 29, 2017 5:09 PM
То:	HLTtestimony
Cc:	berrys@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB916 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/29/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Shaun Berry MD	Individual	Support	No	

Comments: Aloha, As a primary care physician in Hawaii for over 20 years I can attest to the strains our health care system faces. The difficulties of practicing medicine, the high expenses of running a practice and the shortage of providers has led to poor morale among the doctors of Hawaii. However, this loan repayment program is an excellent means to recruit providers into out communities of need. I fully believe this program should be expanded dramatically and I urge your support of HB916 for the health of Hawaii's people. Mahalo, Shaun Berry MD

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

To Whom It May Concern:

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, composed largely of primary care and behavioral health providers. Some of these providers work with high-risk patients, including those patients without ready access to healthcare or who are indigent. Without these providers, many individuals will not be able to obtain the health services they need and deserve. Primary care providers are needed on all islands, and assistance with loan repayment would help to maintain doctors in high-risk areas. **Primary care physicians help keep high-risk patients out of the hospital, and thus assist in lowering overall health care costs.**

In 2012, the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queen's Medical Center and AlohaCare. The program received dollar-for-dollar matching funds from the federal government. In 2014, JABSOM received a four-year grant for \$311,875 per year in federal funds to be used for loan repayment in Hawaii. However, the money can only be spent if there is local funding to match it.

To date, the loan repayment program provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 25 health care providers. JABSOM has been able to raise \$50,000 in private funding for the current year. Another \$250,000 in state funds is needed this year to match the federal dollars. Without state matching funds, the federal grant will end.

The fastest and most cost effective way of recruiting, and maintaining, providers to areas of need is by paying back their loans in return for continuous service to that area.

Please support HB 916, so that we can continue to provide high-quality care to the most vulnerable Hawai'i residents.

Mahalo!

John Misailidis, MD

Attending Physician, Queen Emma Clinics

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 9:50 AM
To:	HLTtestimony
Cc:	john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB916 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments: 01-30-17 Aloha kakou, I support HB916, as I am a resident of Maui, and an allied healthcare provider who understands and experiences the "shortage" and "underserved" realities this Bill attempts to alleviate. Thus I support its purpose(s), i.e. to appropriate funds to the Department of Health to fund the loan repayment program administered through the John A. Burns School of Medicine to provide loan repayment for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists who agree to work in a federally-designated health professional 8 shortage area or an area of Hawai'i found to be underserved. This Bill will not only alleviate a bad situation critical the public health in Hawai'i, but also allow effective, efficient and timely healthcare to be delivered to some of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations, including many at-risk individuals and families. Me ka 'oia'i'o, John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW Member of the Hawai'i Public Health Association 51 Ku'ula St. Kahului, Maui, Hawai'i 96732-2906 808-280-1749 john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to **strongly support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. As you are aware this program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives and others who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

Lets tap into the federal funds!

Thank you for your consideration of my to testimony.

Stephanie Bath Kurtistown Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Craig Takamine

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



- To: Honorable Della Au Balatti& Members of the House Committee on Health
- From: Barbara A. Hastings 2316C Ainakahele St. Hilo, HI 96720

Re: HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Aloha, Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 916, supporting the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program.

As we on Hawai'i Island know only too well, we need to attract and keep health care professionals, especially in rural areas. Incentives and aid can do that.

This program would help non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortages Areas by supporting repayment 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 them.

Given the scope of things, this is a small ask—\$250,000—that would be matched by other sources. As a state, we need to take advantage of such avenues. This program has helped about two-dozen health professionals in four years, and I'm told that two-thirds of them are still working in critical areas of the state.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee via writing.

And, mahalo for your service to our State.

Barran a Hactings

bah@hastingsandpleadwell.com 808-959-1447

kobayashi1- Oshiro

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 2:51 PM
To:	HLTtestimony
Cc:	ecabatu@hhsc.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB916 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation consisting of Hilo Medical Center, our Critical Access Hospitals, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua in Honoka`a and Ka`u Hospital, our 9 specialty clinics and our over 1,200 employees, please accept our "Organization Support."

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Lisa Rantz

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rantz

kobayashi1- Oshiro

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 3:05 PM
To:	HLTtestimony
Cc:	lrantz@hhsc.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB916 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM

<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Rantz	Hilo Medical Center Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Hilo Medical Center Foundation offers strong support of HB-916. Loan repayment will assist with recruitment and retention efforts; especially on the outer islands and rural communities. We need to be competitive to keep up with mainland job offers and loan repayment is one way to achieve that.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.



Testimony In Support for HB 916 Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am Charlene Iboshi, Hawaii Island

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program: Testimony in Support

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

The Hawaii Island community has shortage of health care professional. We are working on specific strategies to recruit and retain these professionals.

HB 916, funds the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program, which one of strategies we need to attract these professional. The program repays educational debt for primary care and behavioral health physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, who work for non-profit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the target health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Please support this needed funding. HB 916 is another "tool" to recruit qualified health care professionals in underserved rural communities statewide. Mahalo for allowing me to testify.



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am by James R. Kennedy, PhD PO Box 1939 Hilo HI 96721

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Lenny Sugiyama

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 4:11 PM
То:	HLTtestimony
Cc:	rhkwine@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB916 on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM*

<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Ryan Kadota	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Carolyn Ma, PharmD.

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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 nonprofit organizations in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Hawaii.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dennis boyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Anything the legislature can do to improve recruitment and retention of health care providers in Hawaii is benefitical. Please support this bill which makes a small dent in the problem but a dent nonetheless.

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Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Sarah Feenstra, DO

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to promote advocacy of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. I am a recipient of loan repayment through this program. I am a psychiatrist working with the correctional system and a community clinic in Maui. I moved to Maui in 2015 for my first job out of residency. In my job search, it was important to find a job that offered loan repayment, as I came out of residency with \$280k in debt. I thoroughly enjoy my work with the underserved mentally ill population, seeing people that are often overlooked but have significant needs. I see the homeless, the abused, the drug addicted individuals in our community. In Maui, I am currently the only psychiatrist accepting patients on Medicare. I have learned firsthand that there are not enough providers on this island, and we desperately need to improve this situation. Loan repayment worksit attracts providers, like myself, to work in areas of need. I feel very fortunate to be a part of this program. It has not only provided me financial support, but allowed me to do the work that I love. When I first moved here I debated whether I should stay, some of the factors that weighed heavily on me were the high cost of living and the lower salaries offered in Hawaii compared to the Midwest. However, loan repayment offered motivation to stay and prompted me to commit to two years of time, not to mention the sunshine here. I am very happy with this decision and will likely commit to additional years in the future.

Please continue to support this program so Hawaii attracts more providers in mental health and other primary care specialties. Loan repayment

options help to combat the financial burden that can deter providers from moving here or staying here.

However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped me and 24 other healthcare providers since 2012.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Sarah Feenstra, DO



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Kristin Rajala, PsyD

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. As faculty for I Ola Lāhui (a nonprofit training program in clinical psychology designed to train quality psychologists who will serve Hawaii), faculty for the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency (a family medicine residency designed to train physicians who will stay and work in rural Hawaii), and an early career primary care psychologist with a significant amount of student debt, I have seen the impact of provider shortage on our islands and the role loan repayment programs can play in helping providers stay and work in communities they are passionate about. However, without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare

providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Kati

4442 Hardy Street, Suite 205 Lihue, HI 96766 Phone/Fax: 808-246-8986



The Mission of Na Lei Wili AHEC is to grow our own healers and promote the health and wellness of underserved communities on Oahu and within Kauai County through partnerships, education, and advocacy.



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Fran Becker, Executive Director, Na Lei Wili AHEC

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

Aloha! My name is Fran Becker. I am the executive director of the nonprofit, Na Lei Wili Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Our center provides pipeline programs to students K-12 and assists medical, nursing, and PA students with travel and lodging stipends so they can participate in clinical rotations on Kauai and other rural areas within the state. We also partner with many agencies for providing continuing education and training to our health professionals throughout the island of Kauai.

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral healthcare workers. This is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at

least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. One of the fastest and least expensive methods for recruiting providers is loan repayment. JABSOM has successfully administered the program which has helped 25 healthcare providers since its beginning in 2012. We now have two-thirds of those providers continuing to work in our underserved communities. We need the funding for this program to continue if we are to see our underserved communities reflect wellness.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am by Carol Quillman Galper, EdD 1091 Apono Place, Hilo HI 96720

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

As someone who spent her whole career in rural physician development (at the University of Arizona) prior to coming to Hawaii Island to do the same, I implore you to support HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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. For 10 years I served on the Arizona Medical Student Loan Board, a state loan repayment program. This program was crucial in the retention of new physicians who were trained in Arizona, and who then were able to stay in Arizona to pay off their debt. Once that happens, the roots are in the ground, so to speak. And they stayed. But without the debt relief for their tremendous debt (between \$160,000- \$350,000) the state would have lost them to other states when repayment was possible.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, and especially in the rural parts of this state, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol A. VanCamp	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this loan repayment program to help our state attract more doctors.

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Testimony in Support of HB916

In 2012, the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queen's and AlohaCare. The program received dollar-for-dollar matching funds from the federal government. In 2014, JABSOM received a four year grant for \$311,875 per year in federal funds to be used for loan repayment in Hawaii. <u>BUT</u>, the money can only be spent if there is local funding to match it.

To date, the loan repayment program provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 25 health care providers. JABSOM has been able to raise \$50,000 in private funding for the current year. *Another* \$250,000 in state funds is needed this year to match the federal dollars.

Hawaii has a shortage of over 500 doctors, as well as all other primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these providers, the people of Hawaii will not have ready access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute on the neighbor islands and in remote regions.

The fastest and most cost effective way of recruiting providers to areas of need is by paying back their loans in return for continuous service to that area.

My name is (Heather) Hokulani Porter and I am a FNP working out in Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. I am part-Hawaiian and born and raised on the West Coast.

Upon Graduation, I applied in vain to HRSA's loan repayment program twice to attempt to reduce my student loan burden. I was already an employee of WCCHC and I was turned down both times. What has been disheartening is meeting mainlanders who receive the HRSA awards and then once they've paid back their time allotment in exchange for their loan repayment award, they leave back to the mainland. In my 4 years at WCCHC, I already personally know of four mainland awardees that have already gone back to the mainland.

With little hope left, I applied for the SLRP loan-repayment plan and with the help of AHEC and Dr. Kelly Withe, I was awarded the funds and it has been a great relief. Had I not received the funds, my plan was to go to a bigger institution such as Kaiser or Queens that pay health providers better than rural health centers do. However, now that I no longer need to worry about the added expensive of the loan repayment, on top of Hawai'i s high cost of living, I can stay in my community and serve my fellow Native Hawaiians. It feels good to help my people navigate their paths toward improved healthier outcomes.

Without state matching funds, the federal grant will end. Help local providers stay in Hawai'i to continue to serve their kupuna, keiki, 'ohana, friends and neighbors. Help us bring important health care providers to our rural areas and entice them to stay by removing the burden of student loans.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this matter. Please pass HB 916!!

Hokulani Porter

Hokulani.porter@gmail.com



<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary K. Nordling, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! As Program Director for the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency based in Hilo, Hawaii, I am acutely aware of the physician shortage the Big Island and the rest of Hawaii faces. A loan repayment option would be an incredible tool to recruit and retain physicians. Please consider!

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<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Kaleikini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a concerned citizen of Hawai'i's Healthcare situation in general, I strongly support this proposed Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program, which is intended to repay 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 in Hawai'i.

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Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 8:30am By Miles Yoshioka

HB 916 - Relating to the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the committee:

I am writing to offer testify in **strong support** of HB 916, which supports the Hawaii State Loan Repayment program. This program repays 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.

With the shortage of healthcare providers in Hawaii, this is one of the best methods of encouraging providers to work in the areas of need. However without State support, Hawaii will not be able to continue this program that has helped 25 healthcare providers since 2012. Of the healthcare providers who have completed the program, 2/3 are still working in underserved areas of Hawaii.

HB 916 requests \$250,000 for loan repayment for the above listed health professions. The funds provided will be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources and be provided to reduce the debt of our healthcare providers working in areas of need. This will allow for 15-20 new healthcare providers a year to work in underserved areas across Hawaii and receive at least \$25,000 a year in loan repayment for practicing at least two years in an area of need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Miles Yoshioka 106 Puhili Place Hilo, HI 96720



<u>HB916</u>

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for HLT on Jan 31, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. William H. Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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