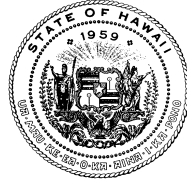


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, MD  
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 HB1550 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

SENATOR DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 5, 2022

Room Number: Video & 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the establishment of the  
3 Hawaii medical education special fund within the John A. Burns School of Medicine. In  
4 addition to matching federal funds, a standalone special fund into which a variety of deposits can  
5 be made, such as private donations, will strengthen and amplify our community's resources to  
6 create, attract, and retain qualified health care providers.

7 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:15 a.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

HB 1550 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The John A. Burns school of medicine (JABSOM) **supports HB 1550 HD1 SD1** which reestablishes the Hawai'i Medical Education special fund.

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

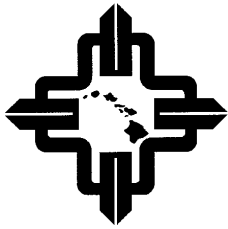
HMEC's 2022 report to the legislature<sup>1</sup>, GME programs, especially those in primary care, geriatrics, psychiatry (adults and children) and addiction serve a high proportion of the state's most vulnerable populations. Yet, there has been a reduction in the overall civilian GME positions offered 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.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2022/hrs304a-1704\\_2022\\_hawaii-medical-education-council\\_annual-report\\_508.pdf](https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2022/hrs304a-1704_2022_hawaii-medical-education-council_annual-report_508.pdf)



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Quality Healthcare For All"*

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

April 5, 2022

10:15 am

Hawaii State Capitol

Room 211 and Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 1550, HD1, SD1**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND**

Establishes the Hawaii medical education special fund to be administered by the John A. Burns school of medicine for graduate medical education and training programs.

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 1550, HD1, SD1**.

The physician shortage in Hawaii has been a long-standing issue, greatly compounded by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since 2014, HHSC's Hilo Medical Center has sponsored the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency program that provides mentorship and training for young residents to become the best possible family medicine physicians. The need for more residency training, as proposed through the John A. Burns school of medicine and in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, is anticipated to result in increasing the number of physicians willing to serve in the medically underserved areas of the neighbor islands. The establishment of a special fund correlates to those efforts. This measure is a positive state investment in the health and well-being of those Hawaii communities.

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

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 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1550, H.D. 1, S.D. 1

**April 5, 2022**  
**10:15 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND

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

House Bill (H.B.) No. 1550, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, 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 H.B. No. 1550, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, 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.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022; 10:15 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1550, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1550, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE 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 to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would reestablish the Hawaii Medical Education Council (Council) Special Fund to enable the John A. Burns School of Medicine in consultation with the 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 bill would take effect on July 1, 2050.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1550, Senate Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2022; 10:15 a.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.

To demonstrate our commitment to this cause, I'm pleased to report the efforts made by one of our members toward expanding the residency opportunities of health care professionals in the State of Hawaii. (See, "Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center Receives HRSA Grant Funding to Establish a Family Medicine Residency in 2022", dated February 1, 2022, attached.)

**The HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.**

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.

Attachment





**WAIANAЕ COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER**  
www.wcchc.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 1, 2022**

**Contact:** Joanne Keala Patterson  
Director of Public Affairs  
Cell: 808-295-3612/Office: 808-697-3457  
Email: [jpatterson@wcchc.com](mailto:jpatterson@wcchc.com)

**Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center Receives HRSA Grant Funding to  
Establish a Family Medicine Residency in 2022**

**Wai‘anae, Hawaii** — Since Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center’s (WCCHC) inception 50 years ago, the health center has aimed to service its community with compassionate, culturally competent, and comprehensive medical care. WCCHC ‘s commitment to providing care beyond just the physical body has led to the development of programs offering our patients access to primary, preventive, and enabling services. Another pillar of WCCHC is the health center’s commitment to education.

WCCHC has developed and currently offers community-based and health professional training experience through multiple ventures - our A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine physician training program, New York University Dental Residency Program, Na Lei Kukui nationally-certified Nurse Practitioner Integrated Residency Program, our American Psychological Association-accredited Psychology Internship Program and NIMAA, the nationally recognized Medical Assistant training program. These programs have led to increased healthcare access to primary care, pediatric dentistry, and mental health for the Waianae Coast community

To continue this commitment to service through education, WCCHC is proud to announce the formation of a **Community Health Center-based Family Medicine Residency program at WCCHC**, established through the “Teaching Health Center Planning and Development” grant sponsored by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration. It is anticipated that by 2030, Hawaii will need an additional 318 primary care providers to service our state and more specifically, the communities serviced by community health centers. This shortage is largely due to the aging of the physician ranks, adverse economic factors to practicing in Hawaii and to the lack of continuing education that is provided in the areas that need those providers the most. With the present paradigm, we will never be able to rectify this dearth.

The Family Medicine Residency program is WCCHC’s response to help meeting that need and building a sustainable future for our healthcare community. This future does not start in medical school and is best characterized by WCCHC Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Stephen Bradley, “It is our duty to be intimately involved in fostering the continuum of education from secondary school all the way through medical residency so that the community can heal itself with its medical providers giving back to the community that raised them, and in a culturally appropriate manner.” Together with our state partnerships, WCCHC hopes that this residency program will allow our local medical students more opportunities to stay in Hawaii for their residency training and aid in the longevity of provider-patient relationships that shape communities for generations.

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Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 10:15 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Via Video Conference

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

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

Re: **HB 1550, HD1, SD1 – Testimony In Support  
Relating to the Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund**

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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 HB 1550, HD1, SD1 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.



**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: April 5, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

**Re: HB 1550 HD1 Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund; John A. Burns School of Medicine; Graduate Medical Education and Training**

**Position: Support**

Currently Hawaii has 3,293 physicians providing care in our state, and there is a statewide shortage of 732 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs), as reported in the 2022 UH Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project. The physician shortages are most critical on the neighbor islands, reaching now 40% on Big Island and 40% on Maui.

Funding for graduate medical education is imperative for recruitment of physician providers to our state. HMA supports the reestablishment of the Hawaii medical education special fund to increase residencies and training opportunities. 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 contribute to the expansion of our Hawaii physician workforce that remains critically low.

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

CONTINUED

**HMA OFFICERS**

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



## **HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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## REFERENCES

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

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

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

## **HMA OFFICERS**

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Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD Executive Director – Marc Alexander

## TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF HAWAII PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

From: Dr. Denis Mee-Lee, Legislative Committee Chair, Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association

Time: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 10:15 am

Re: HB 1550, HD1 SD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) thanks the Committee for this opportunity to support HB 1550 HD1 SD1, which establishes the Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund to be administered by the John A. Burns school of medicine for graduate medical education and training programs.

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.

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) support the allocation of federal and state resources to boost the training pipeline so there are enough psychiatrists to meet the current and future needs of patients with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Efforts to boost the supply of mental health and addiction professionals should be a central component of legislation intended to enhance access to mental health or substance use disorder treatment.<sup>1</sup>

The Hawai'i Medical Education Council (HMEC) is tasked with monitoring the state's graduate medical education (GME) programs, physician residency training, and their ability to meet the health care workforce requirements. According to HMEC, GME programs, especially those in primary care, geriatrics, psychiatry and addiction serve a high proportion of the state's most vulnerable populations.

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 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.

HPMA represents between 100 and 200 Physicians, who, after four years of medical school, receive additional years of specialty training in Psychiatry. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/advocacy/federal-affairs/workforce-development>