



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1795  
RELATING TO HEALTH.**

REP. RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) is currently working with the  
3 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) on the [Hawaii State Loan](#)  
4 [Repayment Program](#) (HSLRP) that leverages matching federal funds. DOH respectfully  
5 recommends that JABSOM continue to provide leadership for any new loan repayment programs  
6 or amend this measure to reflect the contents of HB1549 to assure financial continuity for the  
7 HSLRP.

8 The Hawaii Health Corps Program (HHCP)/Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan  
9 Repayment Program was enacted as Act 187, SLH 2012 but was never funded. The same year,  
10 JABSOM was awarded a grant from the US Health Resources & Services Administration for the  
11 HSLRP, a successful program that is still active today.

12 Under JABSOM's leadership, and with the participation of DOH, the UH Center for Nursing,  
13 and other entities, a total of 64 recipients have received loan repayment since program inception  
14 (2012), 55 of these through the federal program. The other recipients are solo/small practice loan  
15 repayment recipients who receive(d) state and private funding (no federal funding but  
16 administered in the same way). The number of active contracts is 25.

17 Of the 36 past SLRP 'graduates' to date, 21 are still working in the sites where they performed  
18 their loan repayment commitment (58%), and 26 (72%) of program graduates are working in

1 areas of need in Hawaii. This is superior to National Health Service Corps that reports 25%  
2 retention. Over half of the current HSLRP recipients are teaching students and all HSLRP  
3 recipients have been offered continuing education and mentoring.

4 The Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program started in 2012 and has supported 64 providers to  
5 work in areas of need in Hawaii, including three psychologists, one social worker and one  
6 marriage and family therapist. In addition, it encouraged a local hospital to start their own loan  
7 repayment program and gave creation to a non-federal solo and small practice loan repayment  
8 program completely from local funds for providers in rural areas of need who do not have non-  
9 profit status that has supported 9 additional healthcare providers. In addition, the program has  
10 been instrumental in creating a system for administering philanthropic scholarships with a  
11 commitment of service payback in Hawaii. Fourteen such scholarships have been awarded and  
12 the pay back requirement will be administered by the staff with HSLRP expertise.

13 In 2019, the Legislature authorized the State Telehealth and Healthcare Access Coordinator  
14 within DOH to provide long-term assistance and continuity for provider access and retention  
15 schemes such as loan repayment. However, due to the pandemic that resource has not been  
16 established. The existing loan repayment team at JABSOM already has the expertise,  
17 infrastructure, and successful track record to manage the addition of other professions to the  
18 existing loan repayment program.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify

20 **Offered Amendments:** The department has three recommendations for amendments: 1) restore  
21 JABSOM's leadership of the HSLRP deleting most amendments referencing DOH in section  
22 309H-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes; 2) codifying that psychologists and social workers are eligible  
23 professions as currently drafted; and 3) adding the appropriation amount in HB1549 of \$500,000  
24 to the standing committee report.

25

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 187,  
2 Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, established the Hawaii  
3 health corps program as a means of addressing the State's  
4 longstanding health care provider shortage. This program  
5 is aimed at increasing Hawaii residents' ability to  
6 obtain timely medical services by incentivizing family  
7 physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners  
8 to provide medical services in underserved and rural  
9 areas in the State in return for repayment of loans.

10           The legislature further finds that because of the  
11 impact of the "SARS-CoV-2" virus, there is an increased  
12 need across the State for the services provided by social  
13 workers and psychologists. However, under the current  
14 Hawaii health corps program, social workers and  
15 psychologists are ineligible to participate.

16           The purpose of this Act is to:

17           (1) Expand the Hawaii rural health care provider repayment program to include  
18 eligible social workers and psychologists; and

19           ~~[(2) Make the department of health responsible for administration of the Hawaii~~  
20 ~~rural health care provider repayment program; and]~~

21           ~~[(3)]~~ (2) Make an appropriation for the Hawaii rural health care provider  
22 repayment program.

1 SECTION 2. Section 309H-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 is amended by adding two new definitions to be  
3 appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

4 "Psychologist" means a person licensed as a  
5 psychologist under chapter 465.

6 "Social worker" means a person licensed as a social  
7 worker under chapter 467E."

8 SECTION 3. Section 309H-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 **"§309H-2 Hawaii health corps program**

11 **established.** The Hawaii health corps program is  
12 established to encourage physicians, physicians  
13 assistants, psychologists, social workers, and nurse  
14 practitioners to serve in counties having a shortage of  
15 physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, social  
16 workers, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to  
17 a rural area county. The Hawaii health corps program  
18 shall be administered by the University of Hawaii John A.  
19 Burns school of medicine [~~and the~~], University of Hawaii  
20 at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene[-], and  
21 University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of social  
22 work and public health. In administering the program,  
23 the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine  
24 [~~and the~~], University of Hawaii at Manoa school of  
25 nursing and dental hygiene, and University of Hawaii at

1 Manoa Thompson school of social work and public  
2 health shall:

3 (1) Adopt rules and develop guidelines to administer the program;

4 (2) Identify and designate areas of the counties where there is a shortage of  
5 physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, and nurse  
6 practitioners;

7 (3) Establish criteria for the selection by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns  
8 school of medicine of physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, and nurse  
9 practitioners and by the University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of social  
10 work and public health of social workers to participate in the Hawaii rural health care  
11 provider loan repayment program;

12 (4) Define and determine compliance with the service commitments of the Hawaii  
13 rural health care provider loan repayment program;

14 (5) Collect and manage reimbursements from participants who do not meet their  
15 service commitments under the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment  
16 program;

17 (6) Publicize the program, particularly to maximize participation by individuals  
18 who live in areas of a county where there is a shortage of physicians, physician  
19 assistants, psychologists, social workers, and nurse practitioners;

20 (7) Solicit and accept grants and donations from public and private sources for the  
21 Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program, including maximizing the  
22 use of federal matching funds; and

23 (8) Establish criteria and procedures for calling Hawaii health corps program  
24 participants into service during an emergency or disaster."

25 SECTION 4. Section 309H-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
26 is amended to read as follows:

1           " ~~[+]§309H-3[+]~~ **Hawaii rural health care provider**  
2 **loan repayment program.** (a) There is created within the  
3 Hawaii health corps program, the Hawaii rural health care  
4 provider loan repayment program to be administered by the  
5 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and  
6 the University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and  
7 dental hygiene in partnership with a lending financial  
8 institution whose operations are principally conducted in  
9 Hawaii. The Hawaii rural health care provider loan  
10 repayment program shall provide loan repayments to  
11 eligible physicians, physician assistants, psychologists,  
12 social workers, and nurse practitioners who make the  
13 service commitment under subsection (b). The University  
14 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine, ~~and~~ the  
15 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and  
16 dental hygiene, the University of Hawaii at Manoa  
17 Thompson school of social work and public health to  
18 identify loan payment amounts and loan repayment program  
19 recipients, and in consultation with the department of  
20 health shall make loan repayments directly to the  
21 financial institution under subsection (b) to offset the  
22 loan repayment for which the Hawaii rural health care  
23 provider loan repayment program recipient would otherwise  
24 be liable. Loan repayments shall commence upon the  
25 commencement of loan repayments by the Hawaii rural

1 health care provider loan repayment program recipient to  
2 the lending financial institution. The University of  
3 Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the  
4 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and  
5 dental hygiene shall prioritize loan repayments in  
6 accordance with the greatest specialty shortages for the  
7 particular county.

8 (b) The Hawaii rural health care provider loan  
9 repayment program shall provide loan repayments on behalf  
10 of licensed physicians, physician  
11 assistants, psychologists, social workers, and nurse  
12 practitioners who agree to serve for five consecutive  
13 years as a physician, physician assistant, psychologist,  
14 social worker, or nurse practitioner in a county having a  
15 shortage of physicians, physician  
16 assistants, psychologists, social workers, and nurse  
17 practitioners, with priority given to a rural area of  
18 that particular county; provided that eligible  
19 physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, social  
20 workers, or nurse practitioners[~~, as applicable,~~] shall  
21 have graduated from a duly accredited medical school or  
22 nursing school within the United States[~~;~~] or received a  
23 degree in social work from an accredited university or  
24 college within the United States, as applicable; provided  
25 further that preference shall be given to graduates of

1 the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine  
2 [~~or the~~], University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing  
3 and dental hygiene, or University of Hawaii at Manoa  
4 Thompson school of social work and public health, as  
5 applicable.

6 (c) Eligible participants in the Hawaii rural  
7 health care provider loan [+]~~repayment~~[+] program shall  
8 be determined by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns  
9 school of medicine [~~and the~~], University of Hawaii at  
10 Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene, and  
11 University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of social  
12 work and public health on a competitive basis and in  
13 accordance with subsection (b).

14 (d) If a Hawaii rural health care provider loan  
15 repayment program participant fails to satisfy the  
16 recipient's service commitment under subsection (b), the  
17 Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program  
18 participant shall be liable for the repayment of the  
19 outstanding balance of the loan to the lending financial  
20 institution under subsection (b). In addition, the  
21 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and  
22 the University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and  
23 dental hygiene may seek reimbursement for any loan  
24 repayment made by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns  
25 school of medicine and the University of Hawaii at Manoa



1 school of nursing and dental hygiene on behalf of the  
2 Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program  
3 participant.

4 (e) In accordance with chapter 103D, the University  
5 of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and the  
6 University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and  
7 dental hygiene may enter into written contracts with  
8 collection agencies to collect delinquent reimbursements  
9 of loan repayments. All payments collected, exclusive of  
10 a collection agency's commissions, shall revert and be  
11 credited to the Hawaii health corps fund. A collection  
12 agency that enters into a written contract with the  
13 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and  
14 the University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and  
15 dental hygiene to collect delinquent reimbursements of  
16 loan repayments pursuant to this section may collect a  
17 commission from the debtor in accordance with the terms  
18 of, and up to the amounts authorized in, the written  
19 contract."

20 SECTION 5. Section 309H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
21 is amended to read as follows:

22 **"§309H-4 Hawaii health corps first responder**  
23 **service obligation.** If an emergency or disaster  
24 proclaimed under chapter 127A occurs, physicians,  
25 physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, and

1 nurse practitioners participating in the Hawaii health  
2 corps program may be ordered into service by the governor  
3 as first responders to serve in areas of the State and in  
4 a capacity determined by the director of health."

5 SECTION 6. Section 309H-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 "[+]§309H-5[+] **Rules.** The University of Hawaii  
8 John A. Burns school of medicine [~~and the~~], University of  
9 Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing and dental hygiene, and  
10 the University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson school of  
11 social work and public health shall adopt rules to  
12 administer this chapter. The rules shall be adopted  
13 pursuant to chapter 91, but shall be exempt from public  
14 notice and public hearing requirements."

15 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii  
16 health corps fund the sum of \$500,000 or so much thereof  
17 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
18 purposes of the Hawaii rural health care provider loan  
19 repayment program.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
21 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

22 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is  
23 bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is  
24 underscored.

1           SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1,  
2 2022.  
3



**To: Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness**

**Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1795**

**From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and members of the committee

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) support HB 1795 which would expand the current Hawaii Health Corps program which helps address the healthcare provider shortage in the islands by providing support in loan repayments. Currently, social workers and psychologists are not included in this program. HHHRC believes that by adding behavioral health providers to this program that it will help address the shortage of behavioral health providers in rural areas.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness  
Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1795, RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, 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. 1795, RELATING TO HEALTH.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's 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 expand the Hawaii Health Corps Program (Health Corp) and the Rural Health Care Provider Loan Program (Program) to encourage psychologists, and social workers to serve in counties having shortages. Specifically, this bill would:

- (1) Require the Health Corp to identify and designate areas experiencing shortages of psychologists and social workers;
- (2) Transfer management of the Program from the University of Hawaii to the Department of Health; and
- (3) Direct the Program to identify loan payment amounts and recipients employed as psychologists and social workers employed in shortage areas.

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,

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1795**  
**Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 9:00 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

Physicians are not the only professionals in high demand. The same also applies to psychologists and social workers.

This bill would create a financial incentive to enhance 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.

**HB-1795**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 7:39:52 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cecily Sakai	Dr. Cecily Sakai, Psychologist LLC	Support	No

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

Please accept this letter as my written testimony in support of bill HB1795. I support expanding loan repayment for psychologists to help meet the provider shortage for mental health services.

Sincerely,

Cecily Sakai, PsyD



## HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tan, Vice Chair

Date: February 1, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

**Re: HB 1795 Loan Repayment Program; Psychologists; Social Workers;  
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>. Since 2012, support from the Hawaii State Legislature in partnership with JABSOM, HMSA and Queens Medical Center through the State Loan Repayment Program has helped to recruit physicians to Hawaii practice. HMA is grateful for the continued support of this financial assistance program, particularly for needed recruitment to counties like Hawaii and Maui, where provider shortages are the worst at 40%. HMA also supports the expansion of this program to include incentives for psychologists and social workers.

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. The Loan Repayment Program must be sustained to support young physician trainees and improve our Hawaii physician workforce that remains critically low.

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

#### 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





**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)

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair,  
Rep. Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: February 1, 2022 9:00 A.M. - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Testimony in Support of HB 1795

**The National Association of Social Workers – Hawai'i (NASW- HI) strongly supports HB1795 which expands the Hawaii Health Corps Program and the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program to include incentives for psychologists and social workers.**

NASW applauds the effort to create an affordable pathway for the development of more mental health providers. The combined costs of undergraduate and graduate school are skyrocketing, which is limiting the pool of potential social workers. It also creates a system where people from more affluent backgrounds are over represented in the profession, BIPOC are underrepresented in the field.

The collective experiences of COVID have led to more people than ever seeking mental health services and the need to support the development of more social workers is real and now.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support.

Sincerely,

 *Sonja Bigalke-Bannan*, MSW, LCSW

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LCSW  
Executive Director,  
National Association of Social Workers- Hawai'i Chapter

**HB-1795**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:41:28 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alec Marentic	Hawaii Association of School Psychologists (HASP)	Support	No

Comments:

HASP supports the intent of this bill; however, we wish to comment on a few components. Currently, because a specialist-level school psychologist credential does not exist within the state, many school psychologists who provide mental and behavioral health services and support to Keiki in the schools would not be eligible for this program as it is written. It is requested the legislature ensure all professionals who could be eligible and would benefit from the provisions of this bill be given the opportunity to benefit from this legislation.



# Hawai'i Psychological Association

*For a Healthy Hawai'i*

P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521 -8995

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 1, 2021 - 9:00am - Conference Room 329 - videoconference

Testimony in Support of HB1795 RELATING TO HEALTH

**The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) strongly supports HB1795 which expands the Hawaii Health Corps Program and the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program to include incentives for psychologists and social workers.**

The pandemic has had devastating effects not only to our public health system and economies, but to our collective mental health. The disruptions COVID created in our personal lives have brought many in our community to the brink of emotional collapse. The need for mental health services could not be more apparent or pressing, particularly in the rural and underserved areas of the State.

HPA thus greatly appreciates this creative way to provide much-needed services. Psychologists typically go into enormous debt to finance their training. It may be many years before a psychologist's salary is high enough to make payments to cover debts that may exceed \$200-300K. Despite having great interest in providing services in unserved or underserved areas, the crushing debt experienced by many early career psychologists makes it financially challenging to accept lower paying positions that are often found at these locations. Including psychologists in the Hawaii Rural Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program makes the provision of services in lower paying areas much more viable. This measure will also support a pipeline of diverse psychologists in Hawaii who may come from more modest means.

HPA, however, provides the following comments to achieve parity between psychologists and the other professions included in the program. First, **a representative from the psychology profession should be included in the group that makes the selections.** The proposal also does not specify the training program requirements of the psychology applicants except that they shall have graduated from a duly accredited medical school, nursing school or social work program. This list **should also include the academic criteria required for psychology.**

**With these small amendments, HPA stands in strong support** of this measure that promotes access to care in our hardest to reach areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Raymond A Folen, Ph.D., ABPP.  
Executive Director

**HB-1795**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:16:43 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ana Giliberti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a U.S. citizen, immigrant from Brazil, and single mother of two amazing adolescents. After the pandemic, I retired from a job in the tourism industry after almost 20 years. I am now working on my graduate degree to become a doctor of clinical Psychology. I love Hawaii with all my heart and have a strong desire to support the Hawaii people in the mental health field, to give back to this community that has embraced me so tenderly. In order to pursue this goal, I am now unemployed, relying on EBT government assistance and my student loans to provide for myself and my family as I study for this demanding degree, which also requires several hours of voluntary work as an internship experience. I strongly urge you to support the passing of this bill because just like me, there are many other people who struggle to get through school and get a proper education to serve our society, and student loan debt becomes a huge burden to many of us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Sincerely, Ana Giliberti

**HB-1795**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:18:46 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jodie E. Gerson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm in full support of this bill that will help with the loan repayment by allowing us the opportunity to work in our own communities helping Hawaii health corps program and Hawaii rural health care. The loan repayment program is an incentive for us to give back to the community and help with the massive debt we accumulated throughout of years of education.

**HB-1795**

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 6:14:36 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Judith White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill to provide opportunities for health care providers in rural areas, to manage student debt.

**HB-1795**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:15:24 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Karen Cano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of Bill HB1795. Clinicians should be supported in their work to improve the mental health of the people of Hawai'i.



**HB-1795**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 9:50:08 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Wyatt Massey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

RELATING TO HEALTH.

Expands the Hawaii health corps program and Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program to include incentives for psychologists and social workers. Makes the department of health responsible for administering the Hawaii rural health care provider loan repayment program. Appropriates funds.

As a future practitioner in psychology this legislation would directly help me to provide needed services to rural communities. Without these incentives or aid it will prove difficult to provide these services consistently. Most providers have to move or practice primarily in Honolulu or the near areas. It is rare for providers to work almost exclusively in rural Hawaii due to lack of funding. I would personally benefit from this legislation and would directly see the rural communities benefit as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my position.

Wyatt Massey



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII

STATE CAPITOL

HONOLULU, HI 96813

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness  
Hawaii House of Representatives

FROM: Josh Green  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Hawaii

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JG", is written over the printed name "Josh Green".

DATE: January 31, 2022

RE: Comments on HB1795

Thank you for hearing HB1795. It seeks to address the longstanding healthcare provider shortage in the state through loan repayment support to qualified providers.

After talking with stakeholders in the community, it appears that HB1795 may be a parallel effort expanding the loan repayment program alongside the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program already in operation through the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the Department of Health. The Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program has already helped sixty-two providers. We can do far more, and should.

Instead of going forward with HB1795, HB1549 may be considered a vehicle to address the healthcare provider shortage. \$5 million would yield acceptable results.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness  
February 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean and  
Kelley Withy, MD, Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health,  
Hawai'i/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Director  
John A. Burns School of Medicine

and

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1795 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports the concept outlined in HB 1795 of creating more opportunities for bringing health care providers to underserved areas of Hawai'i. The educational Loan Repayment Program is a proven method of addressing Hawaii's health care shortage by supporting recruitment and retention of providers for medically underserved areas.

We are concerned regarding the impact which a second loan repayment program would have on the State Loan Repayment Program administered by JABSOM and the matching funds it receives from the State. Another bill (HB 1549) introduced this session, requests state funds to match the federal grant money received through JABSOM's loan repayment program. The program administered by JABSOM covers many health care providers, including psychologists and social workers.

JABSOM has successfully administered the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment program since 2012. The program is underwritten by a federal grant through the National Health Service Corps which matches, dollar-for-dollar, the state funds JABSOM receives from the state. In the past several years, we have engaged in partnership with the Department of Health, enabling JABSOM to continue the loan repayment program on behalf of Hawai'i. To date, the program has supported 64 health care providers in exchange for work commitments in medically underserved areas. We now have 25 active providers receiving loan repayment and an additional 7 on the waiting list. Of the 36 loan recipients who have completed the program, 21 remain at the sites where they served their work commitments and 26 have stayed in Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**HB-1795**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joanne Okika Shigeko Qinaau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakōu ~

As a PhD student in clinical psychology and advocate for health equity in our state, I strongly support this bill.

By passing this bill, you will be allowing for *increased service to our rural clients/consituents* - communities which are often the most in need.

You will also be ensuring that mental and behavioral healthcare providers have some means to *assuage the \*severe\* negative impacts of student debt*.

In my field, we are bascially all in debt, *in an economic environment where salaries do not account for \*the last thirty years of inflation\**.

Finally, passing this legislation may help to *prevent brain drain* of qualified providers - our state needs to attract and retain providers at much higher rates to meet the needs of our communities and this is one way to do it.

Mahalo nui for your time and attention.

Joanne Qina`au (born, raised, mixed-plate kanaka)