

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 3, 2009

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 124 HD1 – Relating to Health Professional Education

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 124 HD1.

Through the Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program, health science students from the University of Hawaii at Manoa participate in seminars to prepare them to work on interdisciplinary teams at Neighbor Island sites during the summer. This program is similar to one offered under the Area Health Education Center which HMSA has provided a grant of \$103,800 to help with travel expenses for up to 25 medical students to perform clinical rotations in rural clinics and community health settings.

We believe that programs such as these enhance physician recruitment for Neighbor Island practices by exposing students to Neighbor Island life, culture and communities and we encourage the legislature to support these worthwhile efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would respectfully urge the Committee's support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations

March 1, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: Amy Hubbard, faculty liaison on Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124 for March 3, 2009 Hearing at 10AM
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Oshiro, Chair and Vice Chair Lee of the FINANCE COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

I support HB124, a bill for an act that will appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural communities across our state and this bill will do much to address this need.

I have worked in the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program, as a faculty liaison to the Hanalei, Kauai teams, for over five years now; and I know first hand of its successes. I have seen the immediate benefits of the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. Not only does this program attract and recruit nursing students and other allied health disciplines to later live and work in rural communities, but during their time in the program, they also directly help these rural communities. For example, in Hanalei, the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program students (or "QBs" as they are affectionately known as in the community), design and implement health education activities for elementary-aged children and teenagers who come from Hanalei, Kilauea, and Anahola at the Hale Halawai Ohana O'Hanalei community center. The children learn about such diverse health topics as ocean safety, bicycle safety, how germs are spread, the effect of germs in the family and in the community, the importance of healthy meals, the size of various organs in our bodies, increasing self-esteem, defense mechanisms in our bodies, and physical fitness. The QBs also mentor the teenagers and enrich their understanding and appreciation of health occupations. I have even heard some teenagers in Hanalei say that they are now considering a career in health. Thus, by investing money into this program, you will not only be providing an avenue for college students to be trained in rural health issues and practices in an interdisciplinary team, but you will also be encouraging future college students to pursue careers in rural health.

In order to keep this valuable program in Hawaii, we are looking again to the State for funds to support its continuation in this upcoming biennium (2009-2011). **I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program.**

Thank you for considering funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program, an important and proven program that addresses the health care worker shortages in Hawaii's rural areas.

March 1, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: June T. Kunimoto
Chair, Community Advisory Board
Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124 for March 3, 2009 Hearing at 10AM
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Oshiro, Chair and Vice Chair Lee of the FINANCE COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

I support HB124, a bill for an act that will appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural communities across our state and this bill will do much to address this need.

The Hawaii State Legislature has approved funding for the program from July 2006 – June 2009. In order to keep this valuable program in Hawaii, we are looking again to the State for funds to support its continuation in this upcoming biennium (2009-2011). **I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program.**

This program has been addressing the shortage of health care professionals in our rural communities in Hawaii since 2000. The program provides the opportunity for University of Hawaii students from a variety of disciplines including medicine, nursing, social work, medical technology, public health, psychology, dental hygiene, nutrition, pharmacy, education and others, to gain experience working on interdisciplinary teams in Hawaii's rural areas.

In the short term these students work with professionals and community members to provide culturally and place appropriate health promotion and disease prevention services for vulnerable rural residents from *keiki* to *kupuna*. In the long term this opportunity encourages students to consider working in rural communities and provides them with opportunities to be recruited to the most underserved areas of Hawaii. In addition, rural high school students are invited to participate with the interdisciplinary teams during the summer practicum, thus providing these high school students with a hands-on opportunity to learn more about health careers.

Participation in the program is a significant way to recruit health professionals to our most underserved rural communities. Since 2000, 53 teams comprised of a total 168 students from 11 disciplines have participated. As of the last alumni census report dated January 2009, Of the alumni who have graduated, 15 work on the neighbor islands (7 on the Island of Hawaii, 4 on Maui, 2 on Molokai, 1 on Lanai and 1 on Kauai) and 14 work on Oahu (3 in rural areas and 11 with underserved and/or at-risk populations). These alumni include participants from medicine, nursing, social work, education, nutrition and psychology. In addition, one works on the island of Guam and another works in a small rural community in Vermont. Forty-six participants are still in school and 17 are currently finishing their medical residencies. The remaining program alumni who are still in school have been encouraged by their rural health interdisciplinary training experience to live and work in a rural underserved area upon graduation. A survey of the 2008 students confirmed that their participation in the program had increased their interest in and commitment to living and working in a rural community upon graduation.

This program began in 1988 when Senators Daniel Inouye and Quentin N. Burdick co-wrote and sponsored legislation to fund a rural health interdisciplinary training program to improve access to health care in America's rural communities. The program was funded by the US Department of Health until Congressional budget cuts eliminated the funding in June 2006 and the federal funding has not been restored.

The funding in this bill for **Hawaii's only rural health interdisciplinary training program** will allow University of Hawaii students from many health disciplines to gain knowledge and experience in working on interdisciplinary teams with professionals and people from rural communities and agencies. **Without this funding there will be NO opportunity for students from the health professions to work on interdisciplinary teams in rural areas of Hawaii.**

Thank you for considering funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program, an **important and proven program that addresses the health care worker shortages in Hawaii's rural areas.**

March 1, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: Ron Matayoshi, MSW
Director of Practicum and International Programs
Social Work Faculty, Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Program

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124 for March 3, 2009 Hearing at 10AM
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program.*

Thank you Representative Oshiro, Chair and Vice Chair Lee of the FINANCE COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

I strongly support HB124, a bill for an act that will appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural communities across our state and this bill will do much to address this need.

I have been involved in this unique and successful interdisciplinary program for the past 8 years as Social Work faculty to the social work trainees. The Hawaii QBRH training program has successfully exposed and nurtured social work students to seriously explore professional practice and leadership in Hawaii's neighbor island rural communities. We are successfully getting professional graduates to reside on the neighbor island and at several QBRH sites. We are also actively working with local high school youth to apply for higher education via mentoring, college prep workshops – local style, and involving high school students in the interdisciplinary team activities each summer.

In order to keep this valuable program in Hawaii, we are looking again to the State for funds to support its continuation in this upcoming biennium (2009-2011). **I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program.**

Thank you for considering funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program, an important and proven program that addresses the health care worker shortages in Hawaii's rural areas.

Title of Hearing:

HB124

RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Testimony of

Clifford R. O'Donnell, Ph.D.
Professor
University of Hawai'i

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in full support for an appropriation for the Quentin Burdick Rural Interdisciplinary Training Program in HB124. Please note that I am testifying for myself and not representing the University of Hawai'i.

The Quentin Burdick Rural Interdisciplinary Training Program provides excellent practicum opportunities for students in health disciplines to live and work in rural areas of Hawai'i. The students learn about the unique characteristics of rural communities, the health needs of these communities, and how their knowledge and skills can contribute to rural community health. The students also learn about working with health professionals from other disciplines. This knowledge is particularly important because of the interdisciplinary nature of health services. Students in psychology, medicine, nursing, social work, medical technology, public health, dental hygiene, education and speech have participated in this program.

As a result of this program, many students choose to work in rural areas after they graduate. Since 2000, 53 teams comprised of a total 168 students from 11 disciplines have participated. Results from the annual alumni survey of September 2008 include the following: Of the alumni who have graduated, 15 work on the neighbor islands (7 on the Island of Hawaii, 4 on Maui, 2 on Molokai, 1 on Lanai and 1 on Kauai) and 14 work on Oahu (3 in rural areas and 11 with underserved and/or at-risk populations). These alumni include participants from medicine, nursing, social work, education, nutrition and psychology. In addition, one works on the island of Guam and another works in a small rural community in Vermont. Forty-six participants are still in school and 17 are currently finishing their medical residencies. As you know, there is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural areas of our State. Clearly, this program is an effective way to recruit health professionals to work in rural areas and with underserved communities.

Without this funding there will be NO opportunity for students from the health professions to work on interdisciplinary teams in rural areas of Hawai'i. Health services will be reduced to these communities because the services provided by this program will not be available. Most importantly, future health services will be reduced in the rural areas of Hawai'i because fewer health professionals will choose to work in these communities.

I served as a faculty liaison to the interdisciplinary teams for four years and saw firsthand the difference this program makes. Therefore, I urge your support for an appropriation of \$400,000 per year for fiscal years 2009-2011 (\$800,000 total). Mahalo for your consideration.

3/2/09

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: Allison Seales
Na Pu'uwai Clinical Services

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124 for March 3, 2009 Hearing at 10AM
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Oshiro, Chair and Vice Chair Lee of the FINANCE COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

I support HB124, a bill for an act that will appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural communities across our state and this bill will do much to address this need.

Because I was a participant in this wonderful program, I changed my clinical psychology specialty to rural and community health. I am now working as a psychologist on the island of Moloka'i. I moved to this island from Honolulu and plan to stay.

In order to keep this valuable program in Hawaii, we are looking again to the State for funds to support its continuation in this upcoming biennium (2009-2011). **I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program.**

Thank you for considering funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program, an important and proven program that addresses the health care worker shortages in Hawaii's rural areas.

March 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: John Casken, RN, MPH., PhD
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124 for March 3, 2009 Hearing at 10AM
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Oshiro, Chair and Vice Chair Lee of the FINANCE COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

I support HB124, a bill for an act that will appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program. There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural communities across our state and this bill will do much to address this need.

This is the 10th year that I have been involved with the Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program and so I have had the opportunity to see exactly how this program has helped provide critically needed health professionals in the Neighbor Islands as well as assist communities in the Neighbor Islands during the six week summer practicum. During these 10 years I have had the pleasure of working in Pahoia on the Big Island.

Over the last decade approximately 30 students from a wide variety of health professions have worked in Pahoia every summer.

Some highlights from among those students:

- **A student who felt that New York the only place to work after graduation is now the RESIDENT psychologist on Molokai – living there in the house they have built with her husband and new baby son;**
- **Two of the nursing students are now working full time on the Big Island;**
- **One of the social work students will be starting full time work on the Big Island this summer;**
- **A slipper drive to provide slippers for school children who came to school without footwear has been ongoing for the last 5 years after its start by QB students.**

Providing health workers in rural sites has been a problem country-wide. The QB program lets Hawai'i students experience at first hand the problems and pleasures of working in a rural area – the best way of helping make sure that students will give serious consideration to a rural health work site in Hawai'i.

In order to keep this valuable program in Hawaii, we are looking again to the State for funds to support its continuation in this upcoming biennium (2009-2011). **I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program.**

Thank you for considering funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program, an important and proven program that addresses the health care worker shortages in Hawaii's rural areas.

March 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: Dr. Jan Shoultz, Program Director
Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124 for March 3, 2009 Hearing at 10AM
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Oshiro, Chair and Vice Chair Lee of the FINANCE COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information and seek your support for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program, I am Dr. Jan Shoultz, the Program Director.

I urge your support of HB124 and funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program. This program has been addressing the severe shortage of health care professionals in rural communities in Hawaii since 2000. The program provides the opportunity for University of Hawaii students from a variety of disciplines including medicine, nursing, social work, medical technology, public health, psychology, dental hygiene, nutrition, pharmacy, education and others, to gain experience working on interdisciplinary teams in Hawaii's rural areas.

In the short term these students work with professionals and community members to provide culturally and place appropriate health promotion and disease prevention services for vulnerable rural residents. In the long term this opportunity encourages students to consider working in rural communities and provides them with opportunities to be recruited to the most underserved areas of Hawaii.

In addition the program engages high school students from the local community in working with the health science students providing multiple opportunities for mentoring and encouraging the high school students to consider studying to become a health professional. This mentoring can help to develop the future workforce for the rural community residents by encouraging these high school students to consider becoming and health care provider and returning to their own community with skills that will improve the health and health care of rural underserved residents.

Participation in the program is a significant way to recruit health professionals to our most underserved rural communities. Since 2000, 53 teams comprised of a total 168 students from 11 disciplines have participated. As of the last alumni census report dated January 2009, Of the alumni who have graduated, 15 work on the neighbor islands (7 on the Island of Hawaii, 4 on Maui, 2 on Molokai, 1 on Lanai and 1 on Kauai) and 14 work on Oahu (3 in rural areas and 11 with underserved and/or at-risk populations). These alumni include participants from medicine, nursing, social work, education, nutrition and psychology. In addition, one works on the island of

Guam and another works in a small rural community in Vermont. Forty-six participants are still in school and 17 are currently finishing their medical residencies. The remaining program alumni who are still in school have been encouraged by their rural health interdisciplinary training experience to live and work in a rural underserved area upon graduation. A survey of the 2008 students confirmed that their participation in the program had increased their interest in and commitment to living and working in a rural community upon graduation.

The funding in this bill for **Hawaii's only rural health interdisciplinary training program** will allow University of Hawaii students from many health disciplines to gain knowledge and experience in working on interdisciplinary teams with professionals and people from rural communities and agencies. **Without this funding there will be NO opportunity for students from the health professions to work on interdisciplinary teams in rural areas of Hawaii.**

Thank you for considering funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program, an **important and proven program that addresses the health care worker shortages in Hawaii's rural areas.**

March 2, 2009

To: Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: Johanna Ventura, Business Manager
Hale Halawai 'Ohana 'O Hanalei

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124 for March 3, 2009 Hearing at 10AM
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Oshiro, Chair and Vice Chair Lee of the FINANCE COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

I support HB124, a bill for an act that will appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural areas across our state and this bill addresses that need.

I work for a non-profit on the north shore of Kauai in the town of Hanalei. While our entire island is basically underserved, Kauai's North Shore residents are especially vulnerable to inadequate and comprehensive health and social services because of geographic isolation.

Participation in the program is a significant way to recruit health professionals to our most underserved rural communities. For the last several years, our organization has partnered with the Quentin Burdick (QB) program because we believe it is effective. In the short term these students work with professionals and community members to provide culturally appropriate health promotion and disease prevention services for vulnerable rural residents from *keiki* to *kupuna*. In the long term, the opportunity provides students with opportunities to be recruited to work in the most underserved areas of Hawaii.

Each summer, we host a interdisciplinary team of UH students who create a health curriculum for our organization's summer enrichment program for area children. While they are here, not only does the QB team of UH students share health related knowledge with our children, but they also provide excellent role models in a community where "going off to college" is still not really the norm for many families. We value the health curriculum and the many distinctive and creative approaches used by each year's team. Activities have included: beach/water/sun safety talks, public drug awareness presentations, outreach at farmer markets, healthy shopping excursions, growing food, emotional health activities, and many, many others.

We need State support and funds in order to keep this valuable program in Hawaii in this upcoming biennium (2009-2011). **I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program.**

MAHALO NUI LOA, Johanna Ventura, Business Manager, Hale Halawai 'Ohana 'O Hanalei

FINTestimony

From: June Kunimoto [jun.kun@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 11:31 AM
To: 'Jean McAuliffe'; FINTestimony
Cc: 'Jan Shoultz'
Subject: RE: HB124 Testimony for 3-3-09 FIN hearing from June Kunimoto

Hi! Jean,
Thanks for preparing the testimony for me. Great!!!
June

From: Jean McAuliffe [mailto:jeanmc@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2009 2:15 PM
To: House Finance Committee Testimony
Cc: June Kunimoto; Jan Shoultz
Subject: HB124 Testimony for 3-3-09 FIN hearing from June Kunimoto

Please see attached testimony from June Kunimoto for the 3-3-09 hearing on HB124 at 10am.

June Kunimoto is the chair of the community advisory board for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program. As she is unable to attend the hearing in person, she has asked that Jan Shoultz to act as her representative during the hearing and present her testimony in person on her behalf.

If you have any questions or have any trouble opening and printing the document, please call me on my cell phone at 352-6641.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Jean McAuliffe
Program Assistant
Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program

cc: June Kunimoto
Jan Shoultz