

# HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 17, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

**Re: HB 124 HD1 – Relating to Health Professional Education**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 124 HD1 which would appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.

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



**Na Pu'uwai**  
**Native Hawaiian Health Care System**  
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February 15, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: Judith Mikami, RN, MPH and Director of Resource Development  
Na Pu'uwai Native Hawaiian Health Care System, Moloka'i and Lana'i  
Site Coordinator, Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Team Training

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering House Bill 124.

On behalf of the communities of Moloka'i and Lana'i who have both benefited from the Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program (QB), I would like to thank you for considering House Bill 124 that would appropriate funds to support and continue the QB program in Hawaii. The rural areas of Hawaii experience a dearth of qualified and committed health care providers and when we are fortunate enough to have any health care provider come to live and work in our communities, we count it a true blessing. The QB program would enable health career students to live and work in rural communities (6 throughout Hawaii) for the summer. Beginning with seminars that address challenges of living and working in rural and remote areas, cultural sensitivity to these challenges and other topics addressing rural health, the program prepares interested health career students representing up to 11 disciplines to experience rural health.

We have supported QB students for over 10 years and our community has embraced these students and the activities they develop and implement for our community. Through the years, there have been sustainable projects such as advance directives for our kupuna, a locally-oriented guide to college preparation and application that includes the ohana responsibility of supporting a student planning to attend college, website development for agencies, and other worthy projects. They have mentored our youth who also express an interest in the health care arena.

More importantly, the QB Program is a forum to recruit and retain qualified health care professionals to the rural areas. On Moloka'i, there have been at least (5) students who have returned to live and work in the community they participated in as QB students. This scenario has happened at the other island sites as well. The loss of funding for the QB Program would negatively impact the opportunities that have been established due to the students living and working here as well as the potential influences these QB students would have on especially our youth who need this type of positive mentoring.

**I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program.** There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural

communities across our state and in our rural and remote areas, such as Moloka`i and Lana`i, and this bill will do much to address this need.

To reiterate what I outlined above related to the QB Program in our specific communities on Moloka`i and Lana`i, 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*. Ultimately, 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.

The funding in House Bill 124 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 through HB 124 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, such as Moloka`i and Lana`i.**

If there are any questions, please contact me at (808) 560-3653 or via e-mail at [jasmikami@yahoo.com](mailto:jasmikami@yahoo.com).

Mahalo.

February 15, 2009

Testimony in Support of HB124

*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*

**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training.*

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: Johanna Ventura  
Business Manger for non profit Hale Halawai 'Ohana 'O Hanalei

Mahalo nui loa to the HEALTH COMMITTEE for considering House Bill 124. I work for a non-profit community center 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 adequate and comprehensive health and social services because of our geographic isolation. There is a desperate shortage of health care professionals in rural communities across our state and this bill address this need.

For the last several years, our organization has partnered with the Quentin Burdick (QB) program because we believe it is effective in its goal to introduce up and coming health professionals (and students in related fields) to the joys and realities of living and working in Hawaii's rural communities in the hope that a significant number of the student participants will eventually choose to live and work on an outer island.

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.

**I urge your support of HB124 & \$400,000 funding for 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 so that 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, can gain experience 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.

**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 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).

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.**

**Mahalo nui loa,  
Johanna Ventura  
Business Manager  
Hale Halawai Ohana O Hanalei  
5-5299 Kuhio Highway  
Hanalei, Kauai, Hawaii  
(808) 826-1011  
[kokua411@gmail.com](mailto:kokua411@gmail.com)**

Feb 16, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: John Casken  
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene,  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH 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 been working with this program for ten years. Each year the program works UH Manoa students from a variety of health related disciplines including nursing, medicine, social work and public health. These students spend time during the Spring semester learning about the needs of the Neighbor Islands primarily from Neighbor Island residents and professionals. Then during the summer under the guidance of a Neighbor Island professional the students spend six weeks living 24/7 in one of six communities. During that time the students put into practice what they have learned and work with the local community on issues that the community considers important.**

**I have been fortunate enough to work at Pahoia for these last ten years with a dedicated group of health workers and professionals primarily associated with the Bay clinic.**

**In these ten years there have been many successes.**

- **A slipper drive begun about six years ago to gather new and used slippers for the community children who would not otherwise be able to take part in regular school activities:**
- **The Manoa Valley resident who had never been to the Neighbor Islands who is now a resident psychologist on Molokai where she LIVES with her husband and child:**
- **The nursing student who was looking forward to the high tech fast paced life on Oahu but now is very happy in Hilo:**
- **The Pahoia high school students who were encouraged to health careers and work at UH Manoa who are now pursuing their health degrees.**

**The list could go on and on as I look through the stories of the 30+ students who have found Pahoia a great place to use as a spring board for working in rural sites around the state.**

**At a time when our Neighbor Islands desperately need health workers the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Program not only provides a needed boost to six special island communities during the summer but more importantly actively encourages our health students to consider working in rural sites in the state by letting them experience at first hand the trials but more importantly the pleasures of living and delivering health care in these sites**

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.

February 15, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: Sheri M. Gon  
Lecturer, University of Hawai'i-Manoa  
JABSOM, Department of Medical Technology

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH 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.

There is an apparent healthcare workforce shortage in rural areas. Shortages of physicians on the neighbor islands make headline news. However, other healthcare professions are in short supply as well. Vacancies in rural areas for Medical Technologists, also known as Clinical Laboratory Scientists (CLS) go unfilled for many months.

I introduced more than five cohorts of students in different disciplines to the joys and challenges of rural health on Moloka'i. After living and working together in a rural location for six weeks, many of these health profession students are convinced that they would enjoy meaningful work in a rural community. In addition, these health profession students serve as positive role models to the high school students in these rural locations. They often influence these young people to select a health career and consider returning to practice in their community.

Team Moloka'i of 2007 was composed of students in nursing, social work, public health, and education. After assessing community needs and concerns, an Advanced Care Directive (ACD) program was developed. This team educated numerous Moloka'i residents about choices in ACD, word processed and notarized their personal documents, and created emergency cards that noted where the notarized ACD was located (usually in their medical records).

QB is multi-faceted. Not only does it encourage current health profession students to practice in rural areas, provide positive role models for high school students in those rural areas, and develop community-based projects. QB introduces interdisciplinary collaboration skills, an essential element that enhances patient care in these days of complicated healthcare.

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.

February 15, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: Eileen Lovell, MSN, PHN, APRN  
Assistant Professor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
Baccalaureate Nursing Program  
200 West Kawili Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH 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 am the Site Coordinator for the Quentin Burdick (QB) rural health training program for the Pahoia site on the island of Hawaii. I have participated with the QB program for 12 years and can attest to the success of the QB program. I personally know of 10 QB student participants, ranging from social workers, nursing and medical students that have returned to the Big Island upon their graduation to begin their careers. It is wonderful to see the students come back to where they have had their training, to give back to our community and make a difference in the health care provider shortage. The health care provider shortage is still a major issue; this is why I am asking for your support of HB 124.

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.

February 15, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: Ron Matayoshi, MSW  
Director of Practicum & Director of International Programs  
School of Social Work, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH 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 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 ... preparing local kids to apply for higher education via mentoring, college prep workshops – local style, and involving high school students to be apart of the team 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.

February 15, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH 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 support HB 124, a bill for an act that will appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Training Program. There is a continuing severe shortage of health care professionals in rural communities across our state and this bill will do much to address this need.

**I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 funding per year 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. 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.**

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 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).

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.**

February 15, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH 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.

My name is Amy Hubbard and I am a faculty liaison on Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. For the teams that I directly supervised in Hanalei, Kauai over the past five years, 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.

February 15, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

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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.

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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.**

February 13, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: James Mariano, MSW  
Past Participant of Quentin Burdick Rural Health Disciplinary Training  
Program

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick  
rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering HB124.

My name is James Mariano and I participated in the Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary project in 2003 as part of my graduate social work internship at UH Manoa. I was involved on a team with two medical students and a nursing student to administer a summer-long health education and activities program targeting middle and high school students in Waimea, Kauai. We received support from community leaders, professionals, educators, Quentin Burdick staff, host agency staff, the youth and their families in the work that was done in their community. It was a great learning experience and it definitely impressed my desire to continue working in rural communities.

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.

In order to keep this valuable program in Hawaii, we look again to the State for funds to support its continuation in this upcoming biennium (2009-2011).

The funding in this bill for Hawaii's only rural health interdisciplinary training program will allow University of Hawaii students from many health disciplines (including medicine, nursing, social work, medical technology, public health, psychology, dental hygiene, nutrition, pharmacy, education and others) to gain knowledge and experience in working on teams with professionals and people from rural communities and agencies.

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 groups from *keiki* to *kupuna*. In the long term this opportunity encourages students to consider working in rural communities and provides them the opportunity to be recruited to the most underserved parts of Hawaii.

Without this funding there will be NO opportunity for students from the health professions to work on interdisciplinary teams in rural areas of Hawaii. Ultimately, the citizens in rural communities lose out on the potential help that is needed for these communities to thrive.

I urge your support of HB124 and \$400,000 per year funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program. Right after I completed my internship, I received my master's in social work degree and sought work. Right now, I am involved as a program planner for aging and disability services in the county of Maui. I am so proud of the Quentin Burdick project experience and how it continues to shape my life today.

Thank you for considering funding of 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.

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February 13, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: Anuenue Washburn  
Wai`anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Re: Testimony in Support of HB124  
*RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION*  
**Description:** *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Representative Yamane, Chair and Vice Chair Nishimoto of the HEALTH COMMITTEE as well as other distinguished members of the committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

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 participated in the Quentin Burdick program my last year of nursing school at UH Manoa (2000-2001). I chose the island of Kaua`i since I eventually wanted to make it my home. During my stay, I developed lasting friendships and gained a better understanding of what it means to live and work in a rural community. I have lived on Kaua`i for the past four years, and have never regretted moving here. I have been employed at the Wai`anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center since 2003, and credit the Quentin Burdick program with helping prepare me for work in a rural, underserved area.

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.