

February 16, 2009

LATE

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

From: Kelley Withy, MD, PHD

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 **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.

As a physician who trained outside of Hawaii, I was never taught the extraordinary value of a diverse healthcare team. I had to learn this on my own. I believe that team work is one of the keys to helping improve our healthcare system, therefore I fully support this bill.

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.