

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 991, H.D. 1

February 10, 2009

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

House Bill No. 991, H.D. 1, establishes a Hawaii Medical Doctor Loan program that would provide financial support to students who complete a State-approved medical school program at the University of Hawaii, or graduates of a medical school who have received medical training from a Hawaii-based medical program. Graduates that agree to practice in rural areas of the State would be eligible for the program. The program would be financed by the Hawaii Medical Doctor Loan program revolving fund created by this bill. House Bill No. 991, H.D. 1, appropriates unspecified sums from the general fund each year of the biennium for deposit into the revolving fund to carry out the program.

We are opposed to this bill. As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-53.4 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.

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HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair
The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair
House Committee on Higher Education

Re: HB 991 HD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 991 HD1.

States across the country are attempting to attract physicians through the implementation of innovative programs such as the loan repayment program in HB 991 HD1. A loan repayment program offered in tandem with the John A. Burns' School of Medicine's rural residency program will make practicing in rural areas of the state more attractive and feasible for newly graduated physicians.

As you may know, the HMSA Foundation has supported the development of the University of Hawaii's family medicine training program in Hilo through a three year grant of \$535,000 beginning in 2007. We believe that programs such as these enhance physician recruitment for Neighbor Island practices by exposing students to Neighbor Island life, culture and communities.

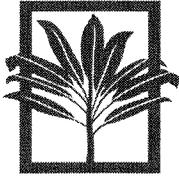
HMSA is working to ensure that our members have access to the services they need wherever they may reside in the State. This includes working with community partners to facilitate recruitment of physicians as well as supporting programs such as the rural residency program.

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 'JDiesman', written over a white background.

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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To: **House Committee on Higher Education**
The Hon. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
The Hon. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 991, HD 1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO
February 10, 2009, 2:15 p.m. agenda, Room 309

The Hawaii Primary Care Association urges your support for this bill. We believe loan repayment programs are a very powerful tool for recruiting and retaining health care professionals in underserved areas. It is all too apparent that Hawaii has an urgent need for such a program at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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