



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
April 1, 2009, 12:00 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1046, SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1046, SD1 to address the shortage of health professionals in underserved rural communities in the State through the continued support of the Hawai'i Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill only if it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request, most notably in health and safety and repairs and maintenance issues. Addressing these urgent needs is critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following substantive information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and the UHM School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene is privileged to provide the home for the Hawai'i Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. The primary purpose of the program is to partner with rural underserved communities, health organizations, and educational institutions to enhance the health of rural communities by identifying relevant health issues and by recruiting students from a variety of disciplines who in the future would provide comprehensive, coordinated, cost-effective, and culturally appropriate services to address the health concerns of rural communities.

The program began in Hawai'i as the Quentin N. Burdick Program with funding by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration. Since Spring 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature has approved funding that allows the program to continue.

The University of Hawai'i Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports a collaborative approach to addressing the healthcare provider needs of Hawai'i and looks forward to our continued partnership with the legislature and community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.



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Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 12:00 pm, CR 308

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

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President
Philip Hellreich, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
April Donahue, Executive Director
Richard C. Botti, Government Affairs
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: SB 1046 RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION *Appropriates funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure as being a unique means of addressing our rural area physician shortage. While it is long range, it is a solid method of helping to accomplish a number of long-term goals, such as:

- Assure that many of our JABSOM graduates will be able to remain in Hawaii;
- Increase the opportunity for professional employment and/or entrepreneurial opportunities in our rural communities; and
- Address our access to medical care crisis with long range planning.

This investment now will provide not only a return on investment in these long-term goals, but will also provide taxpayers of the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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1360 S. Beretania St.
Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 536-7702
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April 1, 2009

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

House Committee on Finance

Re: SB 1046 SD1 – 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 SB 1046 SD1 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,



Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations



Na Pu`uwai
Native Hawaiian Health Care System
PO Box 130 Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748
(808) 560-3653 • Fax (808) 560-3385

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March 31, 2009

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
FINANCE 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 SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

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 Senate Bill 1046 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 SB1046 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 SB1046 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 SB 1046 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.

Mahalo.

March 30, 2009

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

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046. . Please note that I am testifying for myself and not representing the University of Hawai'i.

I support SB1046, 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 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.

March 31, 2009

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

From: Ron Matayoshi, MSW, LSW
QBRH Social Work Faculty
Myron B. Thompson, School of Social Work
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB1046, 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. 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 SB1046 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.

3/30/09

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

From: Dr. Allison Hu Seales
Na Pu'uwai Clinical Services

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB1046, 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.

It is because of this program that I became a clinical psychologist on Moloka'i. Before I participated in the Quentin Burdick rural health training program, I had planned to stay in Honolulu. After experiencing the great need of Hawai'i's rural districts such as Moloka'i, I changed my specialty to rural communities.

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 SB1046 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 30, 2009

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

From: John Casken, Associate Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chairman Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB 1046, 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.

For the last nine years I have been the faculty for the Pahoehoe Quentin Burdick site and as such have been directly involved in some of the projects directly affecting the people of the Puna District.

For instance – one year the students identified that a number of students who attended summer programs spent the day in the school office because they had no footwear. They were not allowed to eat with other students nor take part in field trips. So the QB student organized a slipper drive. Working with local businesses and local folks a supply of useable slippers were made available to school principals in the district for students without footwear. This program is still continuing because of the need.

I'm reminded too of another student who took part in the Pahoehoe program and told me it was her first time to actually live in a rural area and she mentioned that she wasn't sure if she would survive even the six weeks of the program. This student recently completed her PhD and is now a **RESIDENT** psychologist living on Molokai with her husband and child. She told me recently that she couldn't think of working and living anywhere else now. The reason for her change of heart was the Quentin Burdick experience.

A student from last year graduated and is now working in Hilo – again because of the life changing experience of Quentin Burdick. She wants to work with this year's students at Pahoehoe to make sure that they too gain an appreciation for the benefits of living and working in a rural community as a health professional.

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Finance Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 1046
March 30, 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 SB1046 and \$400,000 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 30, 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 SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
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Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB1046, 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 SB1046 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 30, 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 SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB1046, 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 SB1046 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 30, 2009

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

From: Johanna Ventura
Hale Halawai Ohana O Hanalei
Hanalei's Community Center

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046. **I support SB1046, 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 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 education / 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

Hale Halawai 'Ohana 'O Hanalei (Hanalei's Community Family Center)

March 31, 2009

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

From: Kathryn Anbe
Quentin Burdick Alumni, PhD student Psychology at UH Manoa

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB1046, 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.

Last week the news ran a story on the shortage of doctors, nurses, psychologists, and other health professionals on the outer islands. And one of the simplest solutions to this problem is offered by the Quentin Burdick Rural Health Program (QB program), and that solution is to give first hand experience to future health providers to introduce them to rural communities. I was fortunate enough to participate in the QB program in the summer of 2007 in Hanalei on Kauai. For five weeks a team of two other women and I lived and worked in Hanalei, gaining experience in working with rural communities and a deeper understanding of the unique health challenges they face.

As a community and cultural psychologist this experience was invaluable to exposing me not only to a different culture but also to the dynamics of community structure and relationships. The problem of bringing and keeping health care professionals in rural areas is not going to go away, but by giving future health professionals the chance to see what it is like to live and work in a rural community there is greater potential for those to seek out rural communities for future jobs. My experience has encouraged me to do research in the area of multiculturalism and acculturation of communities to gain insight into how to better offer these groups services and care.

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 SB1046 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 30, 2009

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

From: Pualani Gandall-Yamamoto
Lana`i Community Health Center
POB 630142
Lanai City, Lana`i, HI 96763

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB1046, 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 writing this letter of support because the Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program had a huge influence on me during my undergraduate and graduate years at UH-Manoa, such that I enlisted twice. I was born and raised in urban Honolulu, and had no idea what the word "rural" really meant until QB. During my QB tenure I witnessed first hand the shortage of health care professionals in the rural areas of our state. Given the dire straits of our economy at this time, the need for health care workers – as well as other disciplines that participate in QB, ie, social work, education, medicine, medical technicians, public health . . . – is significant.

With Hawaii unemployment rates at a 26-year high (Honolulu Advertiser 3/14/09), the need for rural health care workers will increase. As downsizing and layoffs continue, medical insurance will no longer be affordable, especially for those living in rural areas. Most cannot afford Cobra – and so will turn to community health centers. Here is where health care workers are most needed. Here is where the shortage of primary care providers, and other specialists is the greatest. Quentin Burdick is a recruitment program to the rural healthcare arena. If allowed to continue, the QB rural health interdisciplinary training program will undoubtedly influence others as I was.

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 SB1046 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.

Sincerely,



*Pualani Gandall-Yamamoto, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC
Medical Director*

*Lana'i Community Health Center
PO Box 630142*

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March 30, 2009

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

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for April 1, 2009 Hearing at 12 noon
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and distinguished members of the House Finance Committee for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I support SB1046, 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 SB1046 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. 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.**