



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
March 17, 2009, 2:15 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 Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, 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.

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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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March 15, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at 2:15pm
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees for considering Senate Bill 1046.

I strongly 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.

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March 15, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

From: Sheri M. Gon, MPH, CLS (NCA)
UHM, JABSOM, Department of Medical Technology

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at 2:15pm
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Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees 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.

Many of the rural healthcare institutions recruit professionals from other states or nations. When they come to Hawaii, they are unprepared for the change in culture, higher cost of living, or lack family support. The Quentin Burdick program places health profession students of different disciplines together in a six-week practicum. They live and work together in one of six different rural areas across the state of Hawaii. The Quentin Burdick students:

- Discover the challenges of providing healthcare in a rural setting and how the community identifies and addresses gaps.
- Shadow health professionals to learn more how they have adapted to a rural setting.
- Learn about each others' discipline and as a result have a better understanding of roles and responsibilities of each. This is the beginning of interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Develop good team skills so assignments can be accomplished with reasonable effort.
- Are more likely to work in a rural setting after completing the QB program.

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.**

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March 14, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at
2:15pm
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick
rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees for considering Senate Bill 1046. 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.

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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.

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March 16, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at 2:15pm
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees for considering Senate Bill 1046.

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 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 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 SB1046 and \$400,000 funding for the Hawaii Quentin Burdick Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program. This program has been addressing the shortage of health care professionals in the 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 rural community in working with the health science students providing multiple opportunities for mentoring

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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 a 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 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.**

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March 15, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at 2:15pm
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees 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.

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DATE: March 15, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

From: Pualani Gandall-Yamamoto, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC
Medical Director
Lana`i Community Health Center

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at 2:15pm
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
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Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees 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 who 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**

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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
Lana'i City, HI 96763
Office: 808 / 565-6914
Fax: 808 / 565-9111
Honolulu Cell: 282-6714
pgandallyamamoto@wave.hiev.net*

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March 16, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at 2:15pm
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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.

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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 16, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

From: Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
Health Workforce Researcher

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
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Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees 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 urge your support of SB1046 and \$400,000 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.

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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.**

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March 16, 2009

To: Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1046 for March 17, 2009 Hearing at 2:15pm
RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
Description: *Appropriate funds to support the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.*

Thank you Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, Chair Takumi and Vice Chair Berg as well as distinguished members of the House Higher Education and Education committees 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 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 Center)

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