

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



L A T E

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

February 14, 2012

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

HB2368, Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this measure provided that its
2 enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request.

3 **Fiscal Implications:**

4 **Purpose and Justification:**

5 The Department of Health supports House Bill 2368, Relating to the University of Hawaii at Hilo. This
6 proposal seeks to appropriate funds to establish a medical residency program at Hilo.

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8 HB2368 would establish a medical residency program at UH-Hilo as part of a larger effort to reduce the
9 impact of physician shortages in Hawaii's rural areas and neighbor islands. The creation of a neighbor
10 island residency program increases the likelihood of graduates of the program continuing to provide
11 services on the neighbor islands. A 2008 study of programs that emphasize rural practice showed that
12 64% of the graduates of those programs ended up practicing in communities of less than 50,000 and
13 57% of graduates were practicing in rural communities.

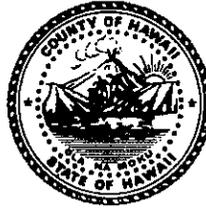
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1 Exposure to the conditions that rural physicians face during their training phase better prepares future
2 physicians for the reality of practicing in a rural environment, thus increasing the likelihood that a
3 physician will not only choose to practice rurally initially, but also remain in rural practice throughout
4 his/her career.

5

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

LATE

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February 13, 2012

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: HB 2368; Relating to University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

Hawai'i County strongly supports HB 2368, which would authorize legislators to spend \$400,000 to support the Rural Residency Program in Hilo.

The County of Hawai'i is experiencing severe shortages of physicians, and this rural residency program is a proven strategy for attracting physicians to the communities where their skills are needed most.

When physicians train in rural areas, they are more likely to consider rural areas of our islands as a place to establish their practices. At the same time, they are delivering care to medically needy and underserved rural populations.

Thank you for your consideration

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.P. Kenoi".

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

DIANA L. VAN DE CAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW

LATE

10 KAMEHAMEHA AVENUE, HILO, HAWAII 96720
TELEPHONE (808) 935-7020 FAX (808) 935-1853

February 9, 2012

House Committee on Health
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Re: House Bill 2368

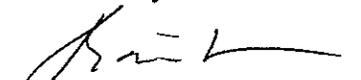
Dear Chairman Yamane and Vice Chair Morikawa,

I am writing to support House Bill 2368 to appropriate funds for the Residency Program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. I am on the Board of Directors of the East Hawaii Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation but I write to you as an individual.

May I speak frankly? We need this program badly here on the Big Island. We have a horrible shortage of physicians here and it is just getting worse. I have clients who cannot find medical care because the primary physicians here cannot handle more patients. Hilo Medical Center and Bay Clinic - two of our largest medical providers - have tried to step up to the problem but it is far greater than they alone can address. We continue to lose physicians because our doctors cannot handle the workload and pressure caused by the shortage. The Residency Program offers us a real solution. If we don't get this program off the ground, I don't know what our families who cannot find adequate medical care are going to do. And the problem is just going to keep getting worse.

Our community has done what it can to make this happen. The local Rotary clubs and other organizations have worked so hard for years now to help fund this program. We need the State's help. I know there are many competing needs and the State's budgetary problems require hard choices. But our residents need adequate health care. This program is crucial for us. Please help and support House Bill 2368.

Yours truly,


DIANA L. VAN DE CAR

DLV