



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

By  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
And  
Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 285 HD1 – RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 285 HD1 which creates a scholarship program for the medical school. The measure establishes a scholarship for a full course of study at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) in exchange for which the recipient must practice in the state for five (5) years following the completion of the recipient's residency.

There is no doubt that Hawai'i is facing a significant shortage of physicians. This has been effectively documented by the Physician Workforce Assessment and research efforts of Dr. Kelley Withy at JABSOM's Area Health Education Center. According to the study, there is currently an estimated shortage of 655 physicians. Moreover, the huge amount of debt medical students face upon completion of their medical studies discourages many from remaining in Hawai'i or practicing in rural areas where the need for physicians is greatest. We believe HB 285 HD1 would be helpful in attracting the most qualified students to the field of medicine.

**We respectfully request an amendment to the bill to include additional separate funding for JABSOM's graduate medical education program (GME). The amendment is attached to this testimony.**

Establishing additional, separate funding on an annual basis for JABSOM's GME program, with the funds directed to the Hawai'i Medical-Council Special Fund, is an investment that would ensure Hawai'i grows new doctors who will practice here. These funds will be used toward the residency and fellowship programs within the JABSOM institutional graduate medical education program. As the 2015 Annual Report on the Hawai'i Medical Council indicates, historically GME funding has come from the federal government and Hawaii's private teaching hospitals/clinics. However, the changing healthcare financial environment, including implementation of the Affordable Care Act, has limited the capacity of the teaching hospitals/clinics to fund GME training. The GME program is a core component of our ability to train new doctors for Hawai'i.

We respectfully offer the following additional suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the scholarship program:

The five year post-residency practice should be performed in areas in the state that are underserved. This would direct medical care to regions where the need is urgent; and

Scholarships should be awarded to students who have expressed interest in areas of practice or specialties for which physician-shortages exist in order to effectively grow the doctors Hawai'i needs.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of our requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for increases in faculty and infrastructure of the existing family medicine residency program and development of new accredited family health centers in association with teaching hospitals.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2015 2:08 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: laurenzirbel@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB285 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM  
Attachments: HB 285 HMA SUPPORT JOHN A BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP .doc

**HB285**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Zirbel	Hawaii Medical Association	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**House Committee on Finance**

The Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 285 HD 1**  
**Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine**  
**Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director**  
**March 3, 2015, 1:30 pm, Room 308**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 285, establishing a scholarship fund that will attract and retain physicians in Hawaii.

The state of Hawaii has a physician workforce that is one of the oldest in the nation, causing an increasing shortage in the state of primary care providers. This bill aims to alleviate that by providing scholarship monies to qualified individuals that are willing to stay and practice medicine in the state of Hawaii for a period of time thereafter.

As this is an area of increasing need for Hawaii, the HPCA supports House Bill 285 and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Quality Healthcare For All"*

**House Committee on Finance**  
**Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair**  
**Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**

March 3, 2015  
Conference Room 308  
1:30 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 285 (HD1),  
Relating To The John A. Burns School of Medicine.  
(John A. Burns School of Medicine Scholarship Program; Appropriation).**

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in support of SB 285 (HD1)**, which establishes the John A. Burns School of Medicine Scholarship Program, which covers the cost of tuition and fees for a full course of study at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in exchange for a service commitment of five years in the State upon the completion of residency..

Meeting the healthcare needs in Hawaii has historically been challenging primarily because of the unique problems posed by the geographical nature of our islands. These challenges have resulted in a critical shortage of medical professionals – particularly physicians. It is estimated that Hawaii's shortage of physicians has sharply increased to nearly 20% from 2013 to 2014. That shortage is expected to increase by more than 68% by 2020. This is a critical problem particularly on the neighbor islands where our facilities serve as a "safety net" for thousands of residents.

Passage of this bill will provide much needed incentives for future physicians to serve in Hawaii for five years post-completion of the recipient's residency. It offers a prospective recipient the ability to reduce the staggering debt incurred from pursuing a medical degree. The State benefits by strengthening its ability to address critical areas of healthcare to its citizens while stabilizing and/or reducing the shortage of physicians.

Because of the severity of this shortage, and the critical need for physicians on the neighbor islands, we offer the following proposed revisions to the bill's current form:

- (b) . . .Recipients shall be required to remain in or return to the State and practice in ***a medically underserved area*** of the State for five years following the completion of the recipient's residency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. We respectfully recommend the Committee's support of this measure.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto  
House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Yoshioka  
Senior Vice President  
The Queen's Health Systems

Re: HB 285 HD 1, Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine  
Hearing—March 3, 2015

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The Queen's Health Systems would like to provide support for HB 285 HD 1. This legislation would help to encourage our local students to serve in the state of Hawaii upon completion of their residency through a scholarship program at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

Providing financial assistance to local students to keep to their roots and practice in the state is a good investment. Incentives to keep physicians in the state could also help efforts to tackle our physician shortage. The Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment Project estimates that, by 2020, Hawaii could be facing a shortage of 1,400 physicians. Neighbor islands often have the most acute needs, especially for primary care physicians. Supporting investments to recruit, train and retain providers in the state is critical to helping expand access to care for thousands of residents.

We must pursue a number of programs and initiatives in our efforts to expand access to necessary care for all residents of Hawaii. We would ask for your support of HB 285 HD 1 as one of those initiatives. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



HB 285, Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine  
House Committee on Higher Education  
March 1, 2015

Dear Chairman Choy and Members of the House Higher Education Committee:

My name is Alister Tang and I am a first year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I would like to express my support for HB 285. This legislation would help to encourage our students such as myself to remain here in Hawaii upon completion of a scholarship program at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The graduating class of 2014, on average, accrued \$135,000 worth of loans. With increasing tuition costs for current medical students, the graduating class of 2018 is estimated to accrue \$145,000 in student debt. Eliminating the financial burdens for medical students would not only encourage a pursuit in primary care but would also allow our local students to return to the islands and provide care to various areas of need. As you may know, Hawaii is currently facing a 20% shortage in physician work force. Similar to how physicians work towards preventative care, let us work together to prevent a further decline in practicing physicians here at home in Hawaii.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my support for this scholarship and hope you will vote favorably on HB285.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

finance1-Kim

**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 8:04 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: anthony\_orozco@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB285 on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM

**HB285**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 3, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The burning of money at Burns School needs to stop.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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