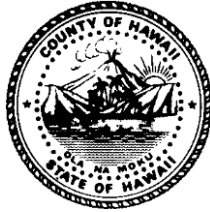


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
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25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chairman,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Health
415 South Beretania Street
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: HB847 HD1 Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program

Aloha, Chair Green, Vice Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB847 HD1, which would appropriate funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Hawaii is dealing with a critical shortage of primary care physicians and on Hawaii Island, our residents depend on doctors who specialize in family medicine.

By improving access to primary care and training more family medicine physicians we can start to lower healthcare costs in rural communities and address the shortage of primary care physicians statewide.

We must continue to fund these initiatives to demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to primary care which will help us recruit talented medical students and doctors who are committed to training and practicing in Hawaii.

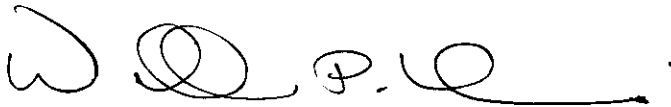
We need to create opportunities for our aspiring medical professionals to serve our community, and this program does that. Currently there are four family residents training on Hawaii Island and caring for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes.

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
March 17, 2015

We need to continue to work together, with the community, to expand the ranks of primary care physicians in Hawaii and increase access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Mahalo for your support and your commitment to the health and welfare of the people of Hawai'i Island.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Kenoi', followed by a horizontal line and a period.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR



1011 Waiānuenue Ave
Hilo, HI 96720-2019
Tel. (808) 969-1733
Fax (808) 969-4863

hospice@hospiceofhilo.org
www.hospiceofhilo.org

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Brenda S. Ho, Hospice of Hilo CEO am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawai'i.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The economic multiplier effect of additional physicians in Hawai'i means each additional physician is expected to generate 5 new jobs and new tax revenue. (Source: The Lewin Group).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating four Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawai'i's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lāhui, Hawai'i Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawai'i. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawai'i. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

At Hospice of Hilo, we fully believe in the importance of the HHSC PCTP and are committed to supporting it in any way we can. We thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawai'i.

With my warmest aloha,

March 17, 2015

Brenda S. Ho
Chief Executive Officer

Date



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senator Russell E. Ruderman
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Sam Slom
Senator Gil Riviere

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.**

I, Mary K. Nordling, MD FAAFP, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

As a faculty member of the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency, I resolve to strengthen the state's provider workforce through the HHSC Primary Care Training Program (HHSCPCTP).

Support of this program and of family medicine graduate education will generate greater numbers of providers practicing throughout the islands. I Endorse the HHSCPCTP as a Means of Closing the Provider Gap in Hawaii.

Mary K. Nordling, MD
Hawaii Island Family Health Center
45 Mohouli Street
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 932-4215
FAX (808) 933-9291

Investing in training family practice residents in the neighbor islands is expected to yield a meaningful return on investment.

- Increasing the number of family practice physicians is expected to decrease the number and rate of “potentially avoidable hospitalizations,” which the state now pays for through both its Medicaid program and unreimbursed care by state’s public hospital system, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.
- In rural areas of the state the impact of the Residency Program and greater access to family medicine physicians is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions. For example, diabetes and coronary heart disease have reached epidemic proportions in Hawaii County compared to Oahu and other areas of the state where there is greater access to primary care.
- The known economic multiplier effect of additional physicians in Hawaii means each additional physician is expected to generate 5 new jobs and new tax revenue. (Source: The Lewin Group).
- Likewise, other trainees at the PCTP including nurse practitioner students, nursing students, pharmacists and psychologists are expected to also stay to help serve the Hawaiian people.

I recognize that it is well documented throughout the nation that physicians attending rural training programs are much more likely to practice in a rural area. More than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice in this setting after they completed their residency. We were very pleased to have over 560 qualified applicants apply to be part of our next class of 4 residents.

We found out today that we matched and our second group of residents are meant to start July 2015. Please allow them to realize their dreams of training and working in the Hawaiian islands by supporting **HB 847 HD 1**.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Nordling, MD FAFAP
Faculty
Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency

Hilo Medical Center
1190 Waianuenue Ave. Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2020
Phn: 808-932-3000 Fax: 808-974-4746

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I am writing to offer my full support of HB 847 and SB 406 to fund the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP).

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing home and have engaged in community activities. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home. This health care home is a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii.

The benefits of the HHSC PCTP are numerous.

- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice in this setting after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.
- In rural areas of the state the impact of the Residency Program and greater access to family medicine physicians is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions. For example, diabetes and coronary heart disease have reached epidemic proportions in Hawaii County compared to Oahu and other areas of the state where there is greater access to primary care.
- HHSC PCTP is training Hawaii's future providers to combine one physician and a team to care for up to 5,000 patients. The current model of care involves one primary care physician for 1,200-2,000 individuals with a small staff, usually including a medical assistant and receptionist.
- The economic multiplier effect of additional physicians in Hawaii means each additional physician is expected to generate 5 new jobs and new tax revenue. (Source: The Lewin Group).

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask them to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: rmsuzuka@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:41:58 PM

HB847

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Suzuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii will have a severe shortage of doctors. Funding this program will help in the training of needed primary care doctors for Hawaii.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lokamoto@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:06:39 PM

HB847

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: yazawa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB847 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:18:12 PM

HB847

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for HTH on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
al yazawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support

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From: [Elena Cabatu](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support of Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency Program
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:19:57 PM

Please accept the testimony below in support of HB 847 for the hearing on Wednesday, March 18 at 1:30 in room 414.

Gulnara Nadeau, RN

PO Box 14

Ninole, HI 96773

The Honorable Mark Nakashima

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 406

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Nakashima,

I support your efforts to address primary care physician shortages in our rural communities by introducing HB847 HD1 bill. This bill is vital to our community's efforts to improve public health, to reduce disadvantages of the rural communities, and to provide access to more primary care physicians. This bill will provide funding to increase number of the physicians on the Big Island. The Big Island communities face numerous health problems such as high rates of diabetes, obesity, heart diseases and respiratory disorders. Many families are struggling to find professional help due to the lack of primary care physicians in our area; therefore, people of the Big Island delay treatment and management of their health conditions. As they get sicker, they require more medical services including hospitalizations. Lengthy and costly hospital admissions put financial strain on our State's budget. Being in the nursing program at University of Hawaii at Hilo, I observed how the Hilo Medical Center's physicians and other health care professionals were passionate and inspirational in sharing their knowledge with the physicians of the Hawaii Island Family Medicine Residency program. In addition, I noticed that the residency program motivated the HMC staff and nursing students to continue lifelong learning in order to improve health of our communities.

Thank you for your concern with this issue and your commitment to support health of our community.

Sincerely yours,

Gulnara Nadeau, RN.

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From: [Mark "Doc" Goldman](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: HB 847 HD 1
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 10:10:38 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Dr. Mark A. Goldman, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
- The economic multiplier effect of additional physicians in Hawaii means each additional physician is expected to generate 5 new jobs and new tax revenue. (Source: The Lewin Group).
- When the program reaches its full complement of 12 residents in 2016, it will begin graduating 4 Primary Care physicians annually. Nationally, more than half of residents trained at rural sites stay and practice after they complete their residency. The same can be expected for advanced practice nurses, psychologists, and clinical pharmacists.

Last July the program welcomed its first class of four family medicine residents who will train for three years to become specialists in family medicine. Since July, these young physicians have cared for patients in the clinic, hospital and nursing homes. Their training is led by a four physician faculty and takes place as part of a patient centered medical home within a multidisciplinary team of advanced practice nurses from the University of Hawaii's two Schools of Nursing, pharmacists from the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy and psychologists from the I Ola Lahui, Hawaii Rural Behavioral Health training program.

Interest in the program's second class of residents has been overwhelming with 560 qualified candidates applying for the 4 spots and more than 40 having strong ties to Hawaii. The interest in the program cannot be overstated – the next generation of primary care physicians is committed to providing high quality care for the people of Hawaii. By training providers in the patient-centered model, HHSC PCTP is helping to address a key component of the state's crisis of needing over 800 physicians.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.
Aloha,

Dr. Mark A. Goldman

1396 Kinoole St.

Hilo, HI 96720

808-935-6160

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

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NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 847 HD 1

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM.

I, Lisa Shiroma, ASO, am in full support of HB 847 HD 1 to address primary care physician shortages by appropriating funds for the interdisciplinary Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program (HHSC PCTP) at Hilo Medical Center.

Funding the HHSC PCTP is a worthwhile investment for the following reasons:

- It shows the State's commitment to improving access to primary care and provides a solid foundation to recruit the most dedicated physicians who want to train and practice in Hawaii.
- As the HHSC PCTP produces more family medicine physicians and improves access to primary care, the program is projected to have a profound impact on lowering the costs of treating expensive and debilitating conditions in rural areas of the state.
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I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask you to support the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program for the future of a healthy Hawaii.