

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2388 on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:50:36 PM
Attachments: [Support for SB2388 \(1\).docx](#)

SB2388

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aileen Duran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Written Testimony in Support of SB2388

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB2388**. Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors, and almost all other types of primary care and behavioral health providers. Without these healthcare providers, the people of Hawaii will not have access to the healthcare they need. The need is most acute for those on neighbor islands and those with the least resources in the first place. The Physician Workforce Assessment program began by legislation in 2010 and has successfully identified the unmet need for physicians across Hawaii, has implemented programs to recruit and retain healthcare providers such as the Ho`okipa Welcome Wagon Program, partnering with the Hawaii Physician Recruiters to share information on job openings widely, provide continuing education to over 2,000 providers, and begin a State Loan Repayment Program.

Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the UH John. A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. The individuals funded are from all the islands except Kauai (so far, but we hope to change that). Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight FNP's and one Geriatric/Adult NP), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

In September, 2014, Dr. Kelley Withy at John A. Burns School of Medicine has received a 4 year grant for \$311,875 a year in federal funds to be spent on loan repayment in Hawaii for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers and marriage and family counselors who work in non-profit settings in Health Profession Shortage Areas. BUT the money can only be spent if there is local funding to match it (dollar for dollar). She has only been able to match \$100,000 of the funds, so over \$200,000 went unused and the federal government decreased the award to \$225,000 a year.

SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

February 24, 2016 10:00 a.m.

by

Susan Lee BSN, RN, WCC

SB2388 RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SPECIAL FUND

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB2388 Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine Special Fund.

Hawai'i has a shortage of primary care and behavioral health providers. The nation and the state have identified initiatives to address the healthcare provider shortage including workforce development support of providers including physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Physicians Assistants, Behavioral Health Specialists, and others. Two of the efforts critical to these efforts are healthcare workforce assessments and loan repayment for health care professionals in the state.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) is a strong collaborative partner with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) in assessing our provider workforce, including nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, physicians and physician assistants. The data acquired through these assessments is provided to the legislature, health care industry leaders, nursing schools, JABSOM, and other health care stakeholders to help inform policy, strategies, and decisions related to ensuring an adequate supply of quality health care providers across the state.

Further, Loan Repayment is the fastest and most cost effective way to recruit providers to areas of need. In 2012, the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center created a state loan repayment program with private donations from HMSA, Queens and AlohaCare and received a grant for dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. This loan repayment program has provided repayment of up to \$40,000 a year in educational debt for 19 individuals. Nine are Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (eight Family Nurse Practitioners and one Geriatric/Adult Nurse Practitioner), nine are physicians (three family physicians, one pediatrician, one psychiatrist, one obstetrician and one internist) and one is a clinical psychologist. The practice locations are primarily community health centers, with two providers working the prison systems and one provider working in a

rural nonprofit setting. These providers have all made a two year commitment to working in underserved areas, and we hope to extend this commitment by continuing this program.

SB2388 will allow JABSOM to continue the research and intervention activities (recruitment, retention, continuing education in the form of the Health Workforce Summit and ECHO distance learning activities), as well as raise the spending cap so that any money appropriated or donated can be used to bring in the dollar for dollar match.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue and for the opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2388 on Feb 24, 2016 10:00AM*
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SB2388

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

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Ahoora Payam	Individual	Support	No

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