

# SB3017

## Testimony

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HEALTH.
Report Title:	John A. Burns School of Medicine; Physician Shortage; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine to fund medical residency programs to help alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in rural Oahu and neighbor island communities.
Companion:	HB1758
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HEA/CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	ENGLISH



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
February 11, 2016 at 1:45 p.m.  
by  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
and  
Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean  
John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM)  
and  
Allen Hixon, MD, Chair  
Family Medicine & Community Health, JABSOM  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 3017 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chairs Taniguchi and Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 3017, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. This measure would appropriate funds to support medical residency programs to help alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in rural O'ahu and our neighbor island communities.

The public face of our medical school is its MD students—and we certainly are proud of the fact that close to 90% of them in every class are kama'āina who do Hawai'i proud, e.g. routinely scoring above the national average on U.S. medical licensing exams.

But JABSOM also offers another type of training critical to our state that are less well known. Every year, JABSOM supervises the work of some 230 physicians at major medical centers in Hawai'i, doctors who are working toward licensure and board certification in about 20 different "Graduate Medical Education" specialties and subspecialties. They include:

- Internal Medicine (including Geriatrics and Cardiovascular Disease)
- Surgery (including Surgical Critical Care)
- Family Medicine (including Sports Medicine)
- Psychiatry (including Geriatric, Child & Adolescent, and Addictions)
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (Including Maternal Fetal Medicine and Family Planning)
- Pediatrics (including Neonatal-Perinatal)
- Pathology
- Orthopaedic Surgery

- The Transitional Year Residency Program provides a single year of clinical experience in various disciplines such as medicine and surgery before undertaking a specialty residency program.

Even while training, these doctors are working, caring for patients under the supervision of our UH faculty clinicians. The federal government, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS), provides about 70% of the total salary for each the UH-JABSOM “MD resident” positions. Hawai‘i’s teaching hospitals have paid the 30% shortfall for these resident positions from their operating budgets.

The rapidly changing healthcare financial environment, however, is limiting the capacity of teaching hospitals/clinics to fund GME training. Many states facing primary care shortages have begun to supplement the available federal GME funding. This important piece is missing in Hawai‘i. We ask the Legislature to create an annual GME appropriation, which would allow JABSOM to expand the post-MD training of new doctors.

This investment would pay off significantly by increasing access to health care in our state. As you know, workforce studies indicate that Hawai‘i is nearly 700 physicians short (across all disciplines) when compared to national norms. This number has been steadily rising over the years and is predicted to increase.

We know that of all MDs who graduate from JABSOM and also do their post-MD training through JABSOM in Hawai‘i, 80% of them will remain in the islands to practice medicine. Expanding GME is the most effective way to attract and retain physicians for Hawai‘i.

Additionally, JABSOM’s intent is to expand the number of new physician-trainees in the specialties and locations where our doctor shortages are greatest.

Investing in the GME program helps to ensure that Hawai‘i grows new doctors who will practice here.

JABSOM requests that the Legislature appropriate funds in the amount of \$2 million as recommended by the Hawai‘i Medical Education Council to maintain the stability of the existing residency programs and support the expansion of the Family Medicine Residency Program and provide the needed faculty, staff and clinical learning environment infrastructure support to sustain this expansion. This appropriation will be an ongoing need to ensure adequate primary care provider training for future generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**February 11, 2016 at 1:45 pm  
Conference Room 224**

**Senate Committee On Higher Education And The Arts  
Senate Committee On Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson, Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support, SB 3017 Relating to Health**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). Hawaii Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawaii Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawaii Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **strong support** of SB 3017 which would provide funding for the graduate medical education (GME) program of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). This measure would help to alleviate the shortage of primary care physicians in Hawaii and in particular in rural Oahu and on the neighbor islands.

Hawaii already faces a shortage of physicians, especially primary care physicians. Workforce studies indicate that we are nearly 700 physicians short when compared to national norms. This number has been steadily rising over the years and is predicted to increase. However, it has been shown that 80% of doctors who receive their medical degree and their GME training in Hawaii stay in Hawaii to practice.

Through its GME program, together with Hawaii's teaching hospitals, including Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children and Pali Momi Medical Center, JABSOM puts 240 doctors to work every year as physician trainees. As they train, these residents care for patients under the supervision of JABSOM's clinical staff. Funding the GME program would enable JABSOM to train more doctors, which ensures that Hawaii grows new doctors who will train and remain in practice in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 11, 2016

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection  
and Health

Re: SB 3017 – Relating to Health

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Baker, Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 3017 which provides an appropriation to the John A. Burns School of Medicine for the Medical Residency Program. HMSA supports this Bill.

HMSA absolutely supports programs that build healthcare capacity, particularly in the rural communities of Hawaii. As you may be aware, the HMSA Foundation, for example, provided over \$500,000 to the Rural Family Practice Residency Program in Hilo to help train physicians who would remain and practice on the Hawaii Island.

HMSA believes programs such as JABSOM's Medical Residency Program are laudable and consistent with our goal of ensuring the health and wellbeing of Hawaii's communities.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of SB 3017.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Diesman  
Vice President, Government Relations.



# HAWAI'I ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

February 8, 2016

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 11, 2016. 1:45 PM  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Senate Bill 3017  
Testimony in Support

We, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Academy of Family Practice representing 316 active family practice physicians in our state, strongly support SB3017. Providing funding to increase UH Family Medicine Residency Faculty and development of family medicine training opportunities in rural communities with an eye to residency expansion is an important step in addressing the primary care shortage in our state. When future doctors are educated at U.H. John A. Burns School of Medicine and are trained in Hawaii residency programs, over 80% stay in the state to practice and 70% of family medicine residency graduates (regardless of where they graduated medical school) stay in the state. This is the highest retention rate in the country and proves the value of “growing our own” physicians to address the physician shortage.

Currently Hawaii has a shortage of over 600 doctors and this is expected to grow to 1400 by 2020. 30.5% of physicians in Hawaii are over age 60. 17.8% are planning to retire in the next couple of years. Solving the problem of the primary care doctor shortage will require a multipronged approach over several years:

1. Increasing enrollment of John A. Burns School of Medicine
2. Educating the private hospital systems of the importance of a strong primary care network and the role they can play in supporting the development of that network
3. Providing funding support at the State and Federal level for hospitals with family medicine residency programs.
4. Providing loan repayment programs so that student debt is not a factor in students avoiding Family Medicine as a specialty.

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Academy of Family Practice has 16 practicing physician members, 10 of which are UH Family Medicine Residency graduates. Consistent with the values we were taught to advocate for primary care as the cornerstone of community health no matter where we received our training, the Board of the HAFP urges you to pass SB3017.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Apoliona, M.D.  
Legislative chair

Lauren Okamoto, M.D.  
President  
Hawaii Academy of Family Practice Board of Directors



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Members, Committee on Higher Education and the Arts

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

Date: February 8, 2016

Hrg: Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts and Committee on Commerce,  
Consumer Protection, and Health Joint Hearing; Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:45pm  
in Room 224

Re: **Support for SB 3017, Relating to Health**

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My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **support** for SB 3017, Relating to Health.

Queen's recognizes the importance of alleviating the shortage of primary care physicians in rural Oahu and neighbor island communities in Hawaii. Access to a primary care physician is important to reduce morbidity and mortality as well as to decrease health care costs. Primary care physicians provide to crucial preventative care services, such as early detection and management of chronic diseases, which reduce hospital admissions and emergency room visits.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

*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.*



February 9, 2016

Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 11, 2016. 1:45 PM  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Senate Bill 3017  
Testimony in Support

Dear Sen. Taniguchi and Sen. Baker,

I am writing in strong support of SB3017. As a U.H. Family Medicine resident my rural medicine rotations were highlights of my training. Working closely with community family physicians in Hilo taught me to integrate all aspects of a patient's story (physical, mental, emotional, social, community, culture) to make diagnoses and choose appropriate treatments. It also gave me a window into a world where a physician's involvement is essential to the functioning of the community. Those lessons have served me well on Maui.

SB3017 seeks funding to begin expanding the UH Family Medicine Residency program to provide more training opportunities in rural areas. These are the areas suffering the most from Hawaii's physician shortage which is currently estimated at over 600 physicians and expected to grow to a shortage of 1400 physicians by 2020. If you are a resident of urban Oahu, you don't know there is a physician shortage. If you moved to Maui, you would be made aware of this issue as soon as you tried to access medical care. I did a survey of primary care providers in June 2014 and outside of our FQHC clinic there was not a single primary care provider accepting new Quest patients on the West side of Maui. For the remainder of Maui there were 2-3 primary care providers accepting some form of Quest but only 1 provider accepting new patients with any Quest and that was at an HHSC primary care clinic.

The current residency training programs besides family medicine are based in Honolulu and to be honest they instill a belief in trainees that "the best" medicine is practiced in Hawaii. Only by getting students and residents out of urban Oahu to experience for themselves the quality and culture of medical practice in rural sites will they realize this is not true and the joys of medical practice can be even greater where the need is more acute.

I strongly support SB3017 as one effort in a multipronged approach necessary to address the crisis of physician shortage in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Apoliona, M.D.

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD  
571 Kaimalino St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

Written Testimony in Support of SB3017

I am writing to offer my strongest support for **SB3017**. Hawaii has a shortage of over 300 primary care physicians. It is very hard for Hawaii to recruit physicians from the mainland due to the high cost of living, lower than average cost of reimbursement and the stress placed on families by moving to a new area away from other family and existing jobs and support networks.

Therefore we have the best luck by training our own doctors. We have been successful at training 117 family physicians in Hawaii and we need to do more. I support funding for both the Oahu based and Hilo based family residency training programs as they are both essential to building our local workforce. Without post graduate (after medical school) training programs such as these we will be in danger of losing a vital part of our health workforce system. However we don't receive as much Medicare funding as other areas for this training and now our programs are in trouble.

I have heard many people say, "I can't find a primary care doctor." This bill will help alleviate that complaint by expanding the training that we do.

Mahalo for your attention to this important issue!