



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean

Winona Lee, MD, Director, 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD, Chair, Department of Native Hawaiian Health

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2392 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 2392 SD1, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports the intent of SB 2392 SD1, which would ensure the sustainability of student stipends and other student support for 'Imi Ho'ōla participants. The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program is a proven diversity pipeline program that provides educational opportunities to disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine. Since 1973, 'Imi Ho'ōla (Hawaiian meaning those who seek to heal) has successfully equipped deserving local students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve success in the competitive field of medicine. The literature demonstrates that students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are traditionally underrepresented in medicine are more likely to choose primary care and rural settings in which to practice medicine.¹

Addressing the workforce shortage by producing primary care physicians committed to rural and underserved communities

JABSOM is committed to producing a diverse health care workforce that addresses the health needs of all people of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i physician shortage has created a gap in current services. When applying the national demand model to the Hawai'i, the state indicates a need for 3,483 total FTEs or a shortage of 509 physicians. However, when island geography and unmet specialty specific needs by county are examined, the estimated unmet need for physicians increases to 820 FTEs with Primary Care experiencing the largest shortage statewide (300 FTEs needed).² Growing our local physicians has never been more critical, and efforts to create a robust culturally-competent physician workforce committed to Hawai'i and its people are vital.

The mission of 'Imi Ho'ōla is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through a program that enhances disadvantaged students' academic and professional readiness for medical school. The program accepts up to 12 students per year and

once enrolled, participants gain a conditional acceptance to JABSOM. 'Imi Ho'ōla's success is largely due to the longstanding commitment by the medical school, community supporters, and stakeholders. All 'Imi Ho'ōla faculty positions and operational costs are completely institutionalized within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). Student stipends in 'Imi Ho'ōla have been generously supported by the Queen's Health Systems for the past 15 years. The current agreement for support is now in its final year of funding.

To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ōla alumni have successfully graduated from JABSOM. Although 'Imi Ho'ōla is not limited to persons of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent, a large number of students from these backgrounds have demonstrated that they are from a disadvantaged background and are deemed eligible for the program. 'Imi Ho'ōla's contributions to Pacific Islander diversity at JABSOM are significant for 38% of all Native Hawaiians, 34% of Filipinos, 57% of Micronesians, and 89% of Samoan students accessing medical school and successfully graduating from JABSOM came through this program.

In a 20 year retrospective study (1996-2016), it was found that 'Imi Ho'ōla produced more MDs that remained in Hawai'i for residency (39% vs. 26%) and chose primary care at higher rates compared to JABSOM graduates who did not go through 'Imi Ho'ōla. When combined, 'Imi Ho'ōla significantly produced more MDs who either chose primary care or residency in Hawai'i when compared to non-'Imi Ho'ōla MDs (72% vs 57%). In the study, factors that predicted choosing a primary care practice were female, 1st generation college students, and a higher science GPA. Factors that predict practicing in underserved communities include underrepresented minority status and a demonstrated commitment to serve.³

'Imi Ho'ōla's contributions are a rarity across the nation

Based on data from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) and the Post Baccalaureate survey conducted in 2017, JABSOM is one of only 45 schools across the nation that have a post-baccalaureate program. Of these schools, only 16 programs consider student groups that are underrepresented in the health professions as a criteria for enrollment and only 6 programs grant admissions to an affiliated medical school upon successful completion. 'Imi Ho'ōla not only strengthens our ability to diversify the workforce here in our island state, but is an exemplar for excellence across our nation.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities set forth in the Board of Regents' Approved Budget.

1. Goodfellow et al., *Predictors of Primary Care Physician Practice Location in Underserved Urban or Rural Areas in the United States: A Systematic Literature Review*. Academic Medicine, September 2016.

2. *Annual Report of Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project, Report to the 2020 Legislature, December 2019.*

3. Purdy, C. M. *Evaluation of a Post-Baccalaureate Medical Education Program for Disadvantaged Students to Diversify the Healthcare Workforce of Hawai'i (1996-2016)*. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2019.



March 11, 2020

To: Committee on Lower & Higher Education
The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of SB2392 SD1, Relating to Health

Hrg: March 13, 2020 at 2:30 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 309

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly **supports** SB2392 SD1, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs.

Over a 45-year history, the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program has established itself as successful pipeline program for academically-qualified students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Each year 12 students are selected for admission to the program and are guaranteed admission to JABSOM upon successful completion. The 'Imi Ho'ōla program has produced close to 300 physicians.

Hawai'i has a physician shortage with Primary Care and rural areas experiencing the most need. Graduates from the 'Imi Ho'ōla program are more likely to remain in Hawai'i for residency, work in Primary Care, or practice in underserved communities, compared to other JABSOM graduates. Supporting these students who will serve our community as physicians is a wonderful investment in the future health of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

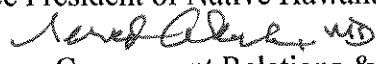
Respectfully submitted,

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Lower & Higher Education

From: Gerard Akaka, M.D., Vice President of Native Hawaiian Affairs and Clinical Support, The Queen's Health Systems 
Colette Masunaga, Manager, Government Relations & External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 12, 2020

Hrg: House Committee on Lower & Higher Education Hearing; Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:30 P.M. in room 309

Re: **Support for SB2392 SD1, Relating to Health**

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals and more than 1,500 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB2392 SD1, which appropriates funds to support the 'Imi Ho'ola program. 'Imi Ho'ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. 'Imi Ho'ola graduates are living stories and testaments of how excellent doctors, who do not come from affluent backgrounds, have been able to serve communities across the state. If not for the stipends, many 'Imi Ho'ola graduates would have to get part-time jobs to pay for basic necessities like food and rent. This would decrease their chance to pass the program's rigors, to enter medicine and to serve their future patients.

On the Big Island, Dr. Kehua Kong serves as a physician at the Queen's North Hawaii Community Hospital and is a living example of the program's success. Dr. Kong is a proud graduate of the 'Imi Ho'ola program, which allowed her the opportunity to see her aptitude for medicine, and provided crucial training that led to an academic advantage in the first year of medical school.

To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2392, SD1 House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

March 13, 2020

2:30 pm

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Sean Quinlan
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem
Committee on Lower & Higher Education Members: Lynn DeCoite, Aaron Ling
Johanson, Dale T. Kobayshi, Dee Morikawa, Takashi Ohno, David A. Tarnas, James
Kunane Tokioka, and Val Okimoto

From: Agnes Malate, PhD
armalate@yahoo.com

The Filipinos for Affirmative Action's mission is to advocate for the civil rights of all in our multicultural community. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." We firmly support *SB 2392, SD1* in regards to appropriating funds for 'Imi Ho'ola student stipends.

Governor John A. Burns, who the UH School of Medicine is named after, and community leaders had the vision to establish a medical school so anyone regardless of social, economic, or ethnic background would have access to quality medical education and health care. This was achieved with the support of the legislators before you. The founding leadership team of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) recognized that Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, Samoans, and others from disadvantaged backgrounds were highly underrepresented in medical education and the workforce. The 'Imi Ho'ola Program (now called 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program) was established to assist students who lacked the opportunities to fully demonstrate their potential due to circumstances beyond their control. While the program has made tremendous progress and 278 'Imi Ho'ola alumni have graduated from JABSOM, the need to have physicians that reflect Hawai'i's population remains. 'Imi Ho'ola has been a proven pathway for those from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds and has contributed greatly to the diversity at JABSOM. Of the students who entered and successfully graduated from JABSOM 38% of all Native Hawaiians, 34% of all Filipinos, 57% of all Micronesians, and 89% of all Samoans came through the program.

Funding to support tuition and other education and living expenses for post-baccalaureate, unclassified students is very limited. The costs place an undue burden on the students since they and their families often do not have the financial resources. The intensive 11-month program is demanding and working to help defray the costs is not a viable option.

Thank you for your consideration of *SB 2392, SD1* and the opportunity to express our support.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:30pm
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

RE: **Strong Support** for SB2392, Relating to Health

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education:


My name is Jester Galiza. I am currently a second-year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and a proud graduate of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program, and I am here in strong support of SB 2392, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends. I am in strong support of this bill for many reasons, but the one reason that I would like to underscore is that this bill would be an investment in ensuring that our physician workforce here in Hawai'i truly reflects our diverse patient demographics, especially in our rural and most socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

I am the product of immigrant Filipino rice farmers and the public education system in Ewa Beach, and I grew up in poverty. Statistically speaking, there aren't a lot of people with my background in medical school and in the field of medicine. 'Imi Ho'ōla is helping to change that narrative, not just for Filipinos, but also for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and in general, those that come from socioeconomic disadvantage.

One challenge that students from socioeconomic disadvantage face is having to balance being a full-time student and working to provide income for themselves and their families. Not to mention the cost of books and other resources, which poses a burden to these students that do not equally affect those with more socioeconomic privilege. For us, the prospect of having to pay for the 'Imi Ho'ōla program, the books and resources needed to be successful, my own personal daily living, and supporting my parents with their financial obligations was quite daunting and overwhelming. Fortunately, the monthly stipends we received significantly alleviated that burden; and I can speak on behalf of my fellow 'Imi Ho'ōla students and alumni that those stipends were truly indispensable. As a result, I was able to focus all of my energy in my academics because I did not have to split my focus between school and work, which I would have normally done in any other situation.

All in all, it is because of the 'Imi Ho'ōla program and its stipends that I am able to pursue my dream of becoming a primary care physician here in Hawai'i, serving disadvantaged populations much like the one I came from. Only a small percentage of people like me ever make it to medical school and therefore become a physician - and that's a huge problem. But the 'Imi Ho'ōla program is changing that, and I am one of many students who can attest to that. Please consider investing in me and other future physicians who intend to practice in Hawai'i and in our most disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jester Galiza

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:41:42 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara McAllaster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Sara McAllaster, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,
Sara McAllaster

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:42:54 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Sharon Mei Wong, and I am a current medical student at the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). I am a huge supporter, as well as, an alumni (2018-2019) of the 'Imi Ho'ola program. I am writing this testimony in strong support of SB 2392.

A little background on the program-- 'Imi Ho'ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies. As an alumni, I can attest to this fact. It was a HUGE contribution to having somewhat of a financial stability while immersing oneself in an intense and rigorous program. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM.

In my own experience, 'Imi Ho'ola is not something easily described in words, because it changes you from within. I came into the program knowing that it was going to be rigorous and challenging, but not only did I gain so much knowledge from it but I also became a part of this small group of incredible people who were also chasing their dreams of becoming a physician. Many people talk about the rigor and the academic foundation you gain from this program, but not many discuss the many other blessings that the program provides.

Not surprisingly, this group of people I entered the program with became a part of my own 'ohana. I am so blessed to have been brought together with such an incredibly talented and diverse group of people. I have learned an immense amount from my peers, both academically and in my daily life. Participating in this program allowed me to form an inseparable bond with them— people whom I know I can count on and look to as role models throughout my entire journey with medicine. Not only did I gain a special relationship with my peers, but I also was able to gain lifelong mentors and support system from the staff of 'Imi Ho'ola. Everyone-- from office staff to instructors-- was

such a huge part of why we were able to persevere and succeed. There was a good balance of nurturing love and tough love. Having that balance was what I needed to get me through the emotionally challenging parts of the program. They say “once an `imi, always an `imi” and I feel that it is very telling of the supportive nature that this program provides.

That being said, although having this support system is an amazing privilege, the notorious rigor of the program curriculum is very well deserved. Being in a constant state of stress and studying forced me to adapt and improve my time-management skills, discipline, stress-management, and so much more. A huge lesson was learning to become comfortable with being “uncomfortable.” You learn to triage with your studies because realistically, it is impossible to retain everything there is to know about medicine. There are so many life lessons I obtained from such an academic-based curriculum— it truly surprised me how much self-growth I underwent in such a short amount of time. `Imi Ho`Å• la was truly a humbling experience and I feel so incredibly blessed that I had an opportunity to be a part of something so that has so much impact and meaning to our communities. `Imi seeks to help those who may not have the same opportunities as others in the community, and I think it is important to raise awareness and inspire people who may be feeling discouraged because of their background or circumstances to let them know that being successful is possible when opportunities are given, taken, and honored. I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of this movement.

Lastly, on the topic of communities, I wanted to address the many opportunities that `Imi Ho`Å• la offered us that enabled us to get involved with our communities. Although a good portion of the program is dedicated to building a solid basic science foundation, there were multiple opportunities to go off-island and experience community service and healthcare on the neighboring islands. We were so grateful to have the chance to travel to Kalaupapa, Moloka`i to visit the remaining patients there. It was a beautiful learning experience. This provided an opportunity to build leadership skills, as everyone had to play a part in planning the trip and IÅ«au that we put on for the community there. During my tenure in `imi, I also had the opportunity to shadow a physician. I was assigned to Hilo, Hawaii and got so much out of my week of shadowing. I was able to receive patient interaction, observe team dynamic in the office, and find concepts that we studied so intensely during phase II come about clinically-- it felt like we were coming full-circle. As you can see, this program means a lot to so many who have been fortunate to play a role in this `imi community. And a huge part as to why it's so successful is the financial support it provides while students are in the program so that they won't have to worry about financial burdens along the way. And it also really sends the notion to encourage giving back to that community one way or another, whether it be with their own time, financially, etc.

I hope you folks will consider helping this bill **(SB 2392)** move forward. I kindly thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo nui loa!

Sharon Mei Wong

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:58:07 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Calio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Bianca Calio, and I am a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

This program has given me the opportunity to enter medical school and has provided me the support and resources necessary to be successful. Having come from Mililani, the mission of this program is to increase the amount of rural doctors and I truly believe that this program is necessary for other students to become successors in rural Hawaii. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,
Bianca Calio

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Christina Tse, a current second-year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and I am an alumnus, supporter, and beneficiary of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in **strong support of SB2392**.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

As a first generation college student, I always have found it difficult to navigate through college and high school. The logistics can be found on the Internet, but the difficult part was figuring out how to get there. The `Imi Ho`ola faculty believed in my abilities and invested in me in becoming a physician. A faculty member once told me after I failed my biology final retake in the Fall semester, "You are smart, but you just lack the foundation in the basic science. Let us see what we can help you with." Those words warmed my heart as I began to doubt if I had the academic capabilities to be in medical school. My faculty provided me feedback, and my `Imi classmates were the one who kept pimping me on questions even during our Kalaupapa trip. Without them, I would have failed and not be in medical school today. `Imi Ho`ola was my gateway into medicine. The program prepared me very well for medical school side by providing me with the basic science knowledge so I can commit more time to improving my foundation and learn clinical skills. `Imi Ho`ola has continued to be a wonderful family and valuable resource to me during medical school. For the first time, I feel like I had someone I could ask and trust with information regarding medicine, medical specialties, and residency. I am very thankful for the opportunity I was given and for the family I have joined.

During the `Imi Ho`ola program, I was not allowed to work as I had in college. Although I was lucky to live to my parents to save on living costs unlike some of my classmates, I did still have academic expenses (i.e. tuition, books, CPR, etc). The stipend during the `Imi Ho`ola program reduced the financial burden to allow me to focus on school as well as provide income for my family.

Please give SB2392 a serious consideration, as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB 2392**.

Respectfully,

Christina Tse

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 1:40:00 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Aldan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Richard Aldan, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,
Richard Aldan

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 1:40:33 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Jared Kim, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,
Jared

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 1:42:53 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amriya Naufer	John A. Burns School of Medicine	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Amriya Naufer, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,
Amriya Naufer

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 2:20:38 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eddy Leung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education,

My name is Eddy Leung, a current fourth year medical student and proud 2016 graduate of 'Imi Ho'ola. My path to medicine was not an easy one. As a child to new Chinese immigrants, I grew up in a Chinese-speaking household, which made learning in an English-speaking classroom difficult. My struggles early on in the ESL program shaped my perception that Medicine or any other academic field, were areas that I could not find success in. Despite this, I studied hard all throughout high school and college and was given a chance by 'Imi Ho'ola.

My experiences in the program were transformative. 'Imi Ho'ola nurtured crucial skills in time-management, and provided me an excellent education in Biology, Biochemistry, Anatomy, and Humanities to set me up for success in Medical School. Moreover, the program helped me to understand that my background as a first-generation Chinese immigrant as well a first-generation college student, is a strength.

Today, I look forward to pursuing the highly demanding yet rewarding field of Internal Medicine and will be graduating with the class of 2020 among the top 15% of my class. I am proud that I will be able to play a part in helping Hawaii's critical doctor shortage. As a result of my time with 'Imi Ho'ola, I recognize my Immigrant Chinese background as a strength when connecting with patients in the future with similar backgrounds.

I am a firm believer in the work 'Imi Ho'ola is doing to ensure that the physician workforce reflects the demographics of Hawaii--to create a thinkforce that understands the needs of its people. My sincere hope is that the committee will share in 'Imi Ho'ola's vision to create a healthier Hawaii, by supporting SB 2392.

All the best,
Eddy Leung
MD Candidate, Class of 2020

Written Testimony Presented Before the
COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:30pm
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

RE: **Strong Support** for SB2392, Relating to Health

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education:

My name is Ken Stridiron and I am a 2nd-year medical student and graduate of the Imi Hoola Postbaccalaureate Program. The program aims to help students from economic, social, and/or educational disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue their dreams of becoming physicians and serving their communities.

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity Imi Hoola provided me. During the 12-month program I committed myself fully. I spent nearly every day at school for over 8-hours a day. This level of commitment was necessary in order to survive the grueling program. As such, students are not able to work. Furthermore, as a postbaccalaureate program, enrolled students are not eligible for federal financial aid. I relied on what little savings I had and limited family support for basic needs such shelter and food; I am one of the lucky one to have these means. My classmates and I were also very fortunate to receive financial support from the Queens Health Systems in the form of a stipend. Despite this support, it is not enough and the high cost of living in Hawaii proved difficult to manage. Financial support is necessary, helping to reduce barriers for students, like myself, to focus on their education.

To overcome so many obstacles up until this point, it is my belief that finances should not be the reason perspective students cannot pursue higher education. The benefits of Imi Hoola include increasing the physician workforce in our state. Many students enrolled come from rural and underserved areas. Current data shows that students from these areas are more likely to return back to their communities. As such, supporting this bill is not only an investment in the student, but the larger community as well. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will **strongly support SB No. 2392**.

Respectfully,

A. Ken Stridiron MPH
MD Candidate, Class of 2022

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 3:48:46 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Yamauchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha & Hafa Adai,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 2392** to provide stipends to participants in the 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JASOM). I am not a clinician, but have worked at the medical school of over 15 years and have met many of the amazing students that have participated in this program and eventually graduated from JABSOM. Many of my family members here on Oahu and on the islands of Saipan and Guam have been treated by 'Imi alumni for various healthcare issues over the years reinforcing 'Imi's mission of providing primary care to underserved communities in Hawaii and the Pacific. I truly believe in the program and send my daughter to an 'Imi alumnus.

'Imi Ho'ola has supported the diversity of the medical student population since 1973 with over 270 participants graduating from JABSOM. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. The students that participate in the program have had to struggle either educationally, financially, or socially and this stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies while enrolled in the program. This is unusual for many of these students who have had to work to support themselves and/or their families while obtaining their undergraduate degree. 'Imi is a non-degree granting post-baccalaureate program and the students are not eligible for federal financial aid. These are just some of the challenges that these students must overcome in order to complete the rigor of the program.

'Imi Ho'ola is an extremely rigorous program that strengthens student's basic science foundation and allows the students the opportunity to pursue their dream of becoming a physician. Upon successful completion of the program students will matriculate into JABSOM as first year medical students. Many of our 'Imi alumni have become leaders within the medical school and often hold officer positions such as class president or leading social interest groups. 'Imi provides disadvantaged and underrepresented students the opportunity to pursue a career in medicine, creating a diversity in the medical school class, and will ultimately increase the number of clinicians from underserved communities that return and practice in these communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kimberly Barnes Yamauchi

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 3:53:28 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nash Witten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Nash Witten, MD, and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am a past graduate of the program and will be working at a Federally Qualified Health Center to provide primary care to the underserved upon completion of Family Medicine residency this June. This has been my calling since I was 11 years old and without the Imi Hoola Program I likely would not be where I am today. The State's support of this program is critical in order to facilitate physicians from the dermopathics most needing health care in Hawaii to return to serve those communities.

Respectfully,
Nash Witten, MD

Quick Biography: Born in Kahuku, Oahu; raised in Haleiwa, Oahu; completed Undergraduate training at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, followed by the Imi Hoola Program, and the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am currently a third year chief resident at the University of Hawaii Family Medicine Residency Program.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 3:57:59 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chessa Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:03:56 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberley Spencer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:09:13 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Purdy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Mā•lia Purdy and I am a faculty member and supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I earned my PhD by evaluating the effectiveness of the Imi Hoola program meeting its mission to produce physicians who will stay in Hawaii, practice primary care, and serve in medically underserved or health professional shortage areas. It is without a doubt that the physicians produced by this program meet its mission and positively contribute to the diversity and need of physicians who serve our communities.

I humbly ask that you Support SB 2393 SD1.

Respectfully,
Dr. Purdy

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:15:40 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nohea leatherman-arkus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Nohea Leatherman and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Imi Hoola prepared me so well for my medical education that, when several person tragedies befell myself and my family during medical school, I had the strength and foundation to endure and excel. I am currently in a residency program in Texas and my peers are frequently expressing how amazed they are that I am doing well in residency while simultaneously being a wife and mother of 2. I know that I owe a great deal of my medical and personal success to the Imi Hoola program: I am a Native Hawaiian woman that really does have it all.

Respectfully,
Nohea Leatherman-Arkus MD

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:26:08 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emmett McGuire	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Dr Emmett Lono McGuire and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1. I was born and raised in Hawaii and am of native Hawaii ancestry.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I have been a strong supporter of the Imi Ho'ola program since I became a practicing surgeon in 1999, both from a limited financial aspect and as a strong mentor. As a result of this program I was able to enter medical school, that would not have been possible, given my lack of confidence, grades and educational foundation. The program prepared me well for the expectations and foundations required to become successful and graduate from medical school in Hawaii. Therefore, I am now able to be a role model and mentor for each class, but more importantly, I am a program director for a general surgery program that trains competent general surgeons for the future of surgical care in America.

Respectfully,
Emmett Lono McGuire, MD, FACS

Program Director

Clerkship Director

General Surgery Residency Director

Swedish Medical Center

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:27:35 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chrisy mafnas	Imi Hoâ€™ola Program	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:41:53 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Delafield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

I would like to state my strong **support** of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide 'Imi Ho'Å• la student stipends to program participants. This stipend is a critical factor which allows 'Imi Ho'Å• la students to focus on their studies and complete the education to become a physician. Thank you for considering my testimony on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Delafield

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:03:36 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joey Kohatsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Joey Kohatsu and I am a proud alumnus of the Imi Hoola program. I am a Primary Care Physician board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine. I am in small group private practice in Honolulu, Hawaii. This testimony is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am eternally grateful for the strong foundation that Imi Hoola set for my career in medicine. The program truly prepared me for the rigors of medical school and beyond. I felt equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in the competitive field of medicine. I shed the label of being disadvantaged. I truly consider it a privilege and honor to be an Imi Hoola alumni.

Although there are many competing needs in our community, the physician shortage crisis in the State of Hawaii is a very real issue impacting residents across the State. Supporting the Imi Hoola program would be one piece of the puzzle to ensure that our Keiki and Kupuna are able to access the care that they need and deserve.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure.

Respectfully,

Joey Kohatsu, MD

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:07:11 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberley Gerard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Kimberley Gerard and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Respectfully,
Kimberley Gerard, MD
Neonatologist

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:37:32 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martina Kamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Martina Kamaka and I am a family physician writing this testimony in strong **support** of SB 2392 which would provide 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student stipends to program participants. As a family physician, I am acutely aware of the shortage of physicians in our State (over 800 physicians short) and the shortage is especially acute for primary care physicians and for our non-urban Honolulu communities. The 'Imi Ho'Ā• la program has been an important contributor to increasing the numbers of local kids going to medical school, graduating and practicing in Hawaii. Interestingly, over 80% of their graduates go into primary care. Many go on to practice in our underserved communities.

The 'Imi Ho'Ā• la students come from disadvantaged backgrounds but the program has proven that they can produce successful medical school students. In addition, their students are known for taking leadership positions in their medical school classes. They are also active volunteers in our communities.

Stipends for these students are critically important. Since they are post baccalaureate students, they are not eligible for scholarships. These students come from disadvantaged backgrounds so this additional financial burden can make or break their participation. The program is rigorous and students are unable to work while participating in 'Imi Ho'Ā• la. These stipends help to pay for the needs of daily life so that 'Imi Ho'Ā• la students can focus on studying and successfully graduating. As successful 'Imi Ho'Ā• la graduates they are guaranteed a slot in the first year class at John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Sincerely,

Martina L. Kamaka, MD

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 6:07:04 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elisabeth Seamon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Elisabeth Seamon and I am an alumnus of the Imi Hoola program. I am currently a third year at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I wish I could share this in-person, but I am unfortunately on Kauai for my rotations.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

I am the first person in my immediate and extended family to get a Bachelor's degree. Pursuing graduate education seemed out of reach, let alone a medical degree. No one I knew growing up did that. When I told my parents, I remember them suggesting alternative career choices. I decided to keep trying to continue my dream of becoming a physician. I was not accepted into the medical school right away as the admissions committee believed I needed extra academic help before matriculating in order to be successful as a medical student. I was notified of my acceptance into the Imi Hoola program for that year. The program mentored me and developed my science foundation in preparation for the rigorous medical curriculum. I am forever grateful for the foundational skills as I have continued using it throughout my education. I am now choosing the field of obstetrics and gynecology and aspire to work on the neighboring islands in the rural communities that have high levels of health disparities. I hope to guide future disadvantaged students in those communities to pursue medicine and build the next generation of rural doctors. My family did not have much money to support my academic goals and so I have worked to pay my way in all levels of education. This stipend allowed me to focus on academics and stop working for the first time in years.

Imi Hoola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor, which allows students to focus on their studies.

To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians. Thank you for taking time to read my story.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Seamon, 3rd year Medical Student

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 6:15:24 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haku Kahoano	JABSOM Graduate	Support	No

Comments:

I Haku Kahoano M.D. JABSOM 2006 (Support) SB2392 SD1

The return on investment of the 'Imi Ho'ola curriculum and experience can not be matched. All you have to do is to look at the ten's of thousands of patients our 'Imi Ho'ola/ JABSOM grads help yearly as physicians. It takes the marginal student and augments the normal medical school curriculum, giving members the advantage of time, mentorship, camaraderie and focus. The incentive provided by the proposed funding is an essential ingredient in modifying the behavior and focus of all 'Imi Ho'ola students, giving them the best opportunity to adopt and commit to habit, the tools required to contribute to practice of modern medicine.

v/r

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 6:17:43 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chung Eun Ha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Chung Eun Ha and I am a faculty member of the 'Imi Ho'Ā• la program. I am currently teaching Medical Biochemistry courses to the students of the 'Imi Ho'Ā• la program. This testimony is in strong **support** of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student stipends to program participants.

I have been working closely with the students of 'Imi Ho'Ā• la for the last 20 years and have helped more than 150 students successfully complete the program, and later become physicians. The majority (80%) of our program graduates are currently practicing primary care physicians, providing health care services to their communities. For over 45 years, the 'Imi Ho'Ā• la program has proven to be successful in providing opportunities to pursue a career in medicine for students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

'Imi Ho'Ā• la's curriculum offers courses to strengthen students' foundation in the basic sciences, which requires students to spend their full-time attending classes and studying the subject matter. Since our program's students are from disadvantaged backgrounds, financial support from the family is not available, and therefore without stipend support from the program, students would not be able to participate in the program. To our program's students, monthly stipend support is one of the key factors in their success in pursuing their careers in medicine. To date, 278 'Imi Ho'Ā• la program alumni have successfully completed medical school and the vast majority of them are practicing physicians in the state of Hawaii.

I am in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide funding for 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student stipends, and humbly request that the Committee on Lower & Higher Education would approve the SB 2392 SD1.

Thank you for your consideration,

With best wishes,

Chung Eun Ha, Ph.D.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 6:34:36 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curtis Takemoto-Gentile, M.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Curtis Takemoto-Gentile and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am part-Hawaiian and graduated from the Imi Ho'ola Program in 1980 and as a result matriculated from JABSOM in 1985. I left the islands to do a family practice residency in Buffalo, New York from 1985 to 1988 and fortunately return home to complete a Geriatric Medicine Fellowship from 1988 to 1990. I was recruited and was appointed an assistant professorship with JABSOM the summer of 1990, and by 1992 was appointed as the Chairperson for the Department of Family and Community Health by then Dean Chris Gulbransen. I was tasked to developed this primary care department and to start the graduate medical residency program for Family Practice doctor. This was accomplished and accredited and the first Family Practice doctors graduated in 1995. This has continue to be a successful residency program producing family doctors who have stayed in Hawaii serving many communities outside of the Honolulu district. I am very proud of this accomplishment and would not have had this opportunity to serve our community and State of Hawaii had I not have the opportunity provided by the Imi Ho'ola program. I am only one of the many graduates of Imi Ho'ola who has given back to the people of Hawaii through our leadership and dedication as doctors, nurses, public health officials, or communities leaders throughout the Pacific.

I am in full support of SB 2392, because it ensure the future of Hawaii and the Pacific Regions will be in the capable hands of Imi Graduates who are from their islands, who are of native ancestry and who understands the many challenges our communities are undergoing. We need Imi Ho'ola to continue producing the brightest stars to care for the people here in Hawaii Nei and the Pacific.

Respectfully,

Curtis Takemoto-Gentile, M.D.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:31:57 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Shelley Wong, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the `Imi Ho`ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

`Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 `Imi Ho`ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Although I am not an alumnus/alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,
Shelley Wong

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:59:58 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Marjorie Mau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Imi Ho'ola is a longstanding Program at JABSOM that WORKS to supply much needed physicians who GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES through service as primary care providers. All of us one day will need a caring physician - wouldn't it be wonderful if those doctors were in the communities that need them the most?! IF YOU AGREE ... THEN VOTE YES!!!

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 8:30:31 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Jennifer Lau and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Lau

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 8:33:53 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kevin lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Dr Kevin Lum and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Respectfully,
Dr. Kevin Lum

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:37:39 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Mesiona-Mozick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1. It is vital to the students of the 'Imi Ho'Å• la Program because it provides much needed and necessary financial assistance through stipends for the students to allow them to direct 100% of their focus and attention to their studies. Many of the students originate from lower income areas and or homes who have aspirations and goals of pursuing a career in the medical field. These students desire to make a difference in their communities and wish to pursue their educational journey one day in medical school.

With your support, SB 2392 will grant the students of the 'Imi program the opportunity to submerge their minds, attention and commitment into their educational curriculum, free of the multitude of financial stresses and demands of housing, meals, day-to-day expenditures required of students.

Mahalo,
Melissa Mesiona-Mozick

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:39:29 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Mozick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:40:43 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chi Nga Chan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Chi Nga Chan and I am a 2009 graduate of the Imi Hoola program. I am currently a practicing Emergency Medicine physician at Queen's Medical Center.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

Imi Ho'ola provided an opportunity to pursue my passion to become a physician in our community . Given the rigorous curriculum, I would not have been able to work part time to help alleviate my financial burden. I would have needed to take out loans at high interest rates. The stipends helped tremendously to reduce that stress. I was able to purchase books and equipment I needed for my education, as well as pay for some rent and essentials like groceries.

I feel Imi Ho'ola plays a huge role and an essential part in JABSOM's plan to keep physicians practicing in Hawaii. Imi Ho'ola supports students from diverse backgrounds, especially those with desire to practice in the islands.

Imi Hoola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

1. students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies.

To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians.

THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Lynn DeCoite	Rep. Takashi Ohno
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson	Rep. David A. Tarnas
Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Dee Morikawa	Rep. Val Okimoto

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, March 13, 2020
TIME: 2:30 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Justin Woodson, Vice Chair Sean Quinlan and Vice Chair Mark Hashem and

My name is Kelli-Ann Frank Voloch, MD and this testimony is in strong **support** of SB 2392 –SD1 which would provide ‘Imi Ho‘ōla student stipends to program participants. I am a supporter of the ‘Imi Ho‘ōla program and this bill for numerous reasons:

- Graduate of the ‘Imi Ho‘ōla Post-Baccalaureate program c/o 1994 and graduate of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) c/o 1997.
- Native Hawaiian Pediatrician serving the Waianae Coast for greater than 20 years at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center with other ‘Imi Ho‘ōla graduates who are committed to improving the health outcomes of NH and underserved communities in Hawaii.
- Assistant Professor at JABSOM instructing both ‘Imi Ho‘ōla graduates in Humanities in Medicine course and mentoring other NH medical students who also mentor NH high school students at Nanakuli High and Intermediate school.
- To date, 278 ‘Imi Ho‘ōla graduates have **successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now practicing physicians.**
- This stipend is a critical factor which allows ‘Imi Ho‘ōla students to **successfully complete the graduate education required to becoming a physician in Hawaii.**
- ‘Imi Ho‘ōla has **supported diverse students underrepresented in the health sciences (e.g., Native Hawaiians) for over 45 years.** The program’s mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai‘i and the Pacific by **increasing** the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students’ academic and professional needs.
- Only **6.2% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians hold a bachelor’s degree compared to 21.6%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Graduate school attendance, after completing an undergraduate degree, is considered an important outcome for increasing the nation’s professionals in health science careers. As access to graduate education is limited to those who excel at the undergraduate level, increasing the number of Native Hawaiian students that successfully complete and excel in undergraduate science degrees is critical at a national level.
- **Only 1.9% of individuals in areas with high proportions of Native Hawaiians such as Waianae hold a graduate or professional degree compared to 11.1%** of individuals in the overall Honolulu County area.
- Data also suggests low graduation rates in science fields among Native Hawaiians, and **attrition from the sciences is associated with an overall shortage of professionals in the science and health fields.**

- Ultimately, a strong network of highly trained Native Hawaiian health professionals is needed to work in health care, conduct health. We are determined to “Grow our own Healers” to improve the health of Hawaii.

Let’s BE THE CHANGE!

Support SB 2392 to improve the future of Health care in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Kelli-Ann Frank Voloch, MD

Pediatrician, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

‘Imi Ho‘ōla Alumnus c/o 1994

Testimony for SB 2392

Mahalo for allowing me to provide testimony in **support** of SB 2392 which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program is a proven diversity pipeline program that provides educational opportunities to disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine. Since 1973, 'Imi Ho'ōla (Hawaiian meaning those who seek to heal) has successfully equipped deserving local students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve success in the competitive field of medicine.

I was one of those students who completed the 'Imi Ho'ōla Program and went on to matriculate into the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am an Internal Medicine physician today because of 'Imi Ho'ōla. I recall not being able to get scholarships because it is an unclassified graduate program. Working while being in 'Imi Ho'ōla is extremely difficult due to the high study demand needed to complete the program.

The mission of 'Imi Ho'ōla is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through a program that enhances disadvantaged students' academic and professional readiness for medical school. The program accepts up to 12 students per year and once enrolled, participants gain a conditional acceptance to JABSOM. 'Imi Ho'ōla's success is largely due to the longstanding commitment by the medical school, community supporters, and stakeholders.

To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ōla alumni have successfully graduated from JABSOM. Although 'Imi Ho'ōla is not limited to persons of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent, a large number of students from these backgrounds have demonstrated that they are from a disadvantaged background and are deemed eligible for the program. 'Imi Ho'ōla's contributions to Pacific Islander diversity at JABSOM are significant for 38% of all Native Hawaiians, 34% of Filipinos, 57% of Micronesians, and 89% of Samoan students accessing medical school and successfully graduating from JABSOM came through this program. Please help these students become the physicians they were meant to be, to care for the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Mahalo a nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dee-Ann Carpenter', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dee-Ann Carpenter, M.D.
'Imi Ho'ōla, Class of 1986

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:15:27 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Pono Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 11:16:17 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Brittany Sato and I am an alumnus of the 'Imi Ho'ola program. I am currently a second year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide 'Imi Ho'ola student stipends to program participants.

'Imi Ho'ola gave me the opportunity to pursue my interest in medicine. Growing up in Nanakuli, I experienced first-hand health disparities that rural communities face. My passion in medicine is to serve the Leeward Coast communities and I will be able to do so largely because of the 'Imi Ho'ola program. Upon completion of the program, I was able to enter the JABSOM as a medical student. To date, the 'Imi Ho'ola program has allowed 278 graduates to successfully enter and complete JABSOM and are fulfilling their dreams as physicians.

The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. One educational barrier that we face includes financial challenges. The 'Imi Ho'ola program graciously provided its students with a stipend which allowed us to focus on our studies while maintaining our independence from our families. Many of us would not have been able to leave our jobs and go back to school to pursue medicine. Funding SB 2392 SD1 is critical to continue the great work that the 'Imi Ho'ola does by supporting its students and diversifying our physician workforce.

I humbly ask you to consider supporting SB2392 SD1 to continue the legacy of 'Imi Ho'ola program.

Very Respectfully,

Brittany Sato

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 3:52:13 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toan Lam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 5:10:46 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Pepple	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 5:11:23 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dionne Mesiona- Pepple	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 5:12:27 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Mesion	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 5:58:23 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kandon Kamae	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Kandon Kamae and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am a graduate of the Imi Hoola program. It is through Imi Hoola that I was able to go on to medical school and become a physician. It has blessed my life and many others who I have been able to help over the years. I look forward to many more years of service to my community. I am eternally grateful to the Imi Hoola program.

Respectfully,
Kandon Kamae

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 6:57:59 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Sonoda-Fogel, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a graduate of JABSOM 1988. Imi Ho'ola Program was very important in helping me achieve my goal. I am proud to say I have served communities in need throughout my career and continue to do so. Please support Imi Ho'ola and require that the students supported will serve Hawaii's rural communities for the length of their assistance. It is important to have a requirement clause in serving Hawaii's rural communities as primary care providers.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 8:08:26 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Re: SB 2392 Appropriates funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Hoola student support programs at the discretion of the department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to provide written testimony in **strong support** of SB 2392 SD1, which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

I am Dr. Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Chair of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. However, my testimony here is an individual private citizen and health professional concerned about the significant physician workforce shortage here in Hawaii, especially the need for more primary care physicians. I am also concerned about the cultural competency of our future physician workforce to, effectively, care for our diverse communities and most vulnerable populations across Hawaii. Finally, I am concerned about the significant underrepresentation of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in the physician workforce here in Hawaii, given that over 30% of all people in Hawai'i are either Native Hawaiian or from another Pacific Islander group. However, they bear a disproportionate burden of chronic diseases compared to other ethnic groups in Hawai'i.

The 'Imi Ho'Ā• la Post-Baccalaureate Program is the only pipeline program into medicine that seeks to address all of my concerns. 'Imi Ho'Ā• la is a proven diversity pipeline program that has been in existence for over 46 years. It provides a unique opportunity for socially disadvantaged students to achieve their dream of becoming physicians. A vast majority of 'Imi Ho'Ā• la graduates choose careers in primary care at higher numbers than other JABSOM medical students. They are also more likely to do their residency here in Hawai'i. If our graduates leave the islands for residency programs on the continental U.S., the chances of them coming back soon after

residency are slim. The vast majority of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos who ever graduated from JABSOM with their medical degree entered medical school through 'Imi Ho'Ā• la. Because these students come from diverse social backgrounds, and because of their 'Imi Ho'Ā• la training, their cultural competency in providing patient care is very strong. In short, 'Imi Ho'Ā• la is a necessary and vital pipeline to address our physician workforce shortage, to ensure a diverse physician workforce that reflects and understands our diverse communities, and to ensure bright and passionate Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino students are given an opportunity to achieve their dream of becoming a physician serving our communities.

The stipends provided to 'Imi Ho'Ā• la students allow them to focus on their studies during this one-year intensive program to increase their likelihood of success. These students come from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds so the cost of their education is an issue. The stipends and other supports offered by SB 2392 will ensure that 'Imi Ho'Ā• la students can focus on their studies without financial worries and barriers, which only increase their likelihood of success.

Again, mahalo nui for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 8:22:56 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Winona Mesiona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:35:12 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celeste Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Celeste Wong and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I work closely with Imi students as I am the academic support specialist for the program. I know that this stipend will allow our students to focus solely on their studies without having a financial burden to worry about. Our students are already disadvantaged in some way and their intent to become physicians and to be a part of the physician workforce is something that should be encouraged with the least amount of barriers. Our program helps to grow our own healers and allows patients to see physicians who look, think and feel like them.

I have also seen that our Imi Hoola graduates when they matriculate into med school become the leaders and often sought after by fellow med students for help. The knowledge base that our Imi Hoola students leave our program with is amazing. Even the experience through Imi helps shape them into stronger better people. We have this saying "Once an 'Imi, Always an 'Imi," its a village that we built that helps support them throughout medschool and beyond. We're a family and its amazing to see our family grow each year.

This stipend will help in so many ways. I strongly support this bill.

Respectfully,
Celeste Wong

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:40:52 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Ip	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Courtney Ip, a current medical student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and I am a supporter of the 'Imi Ho'ola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392.

'Imi Ho'ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs. To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

The 'Imi Ho'ola program has directly impacted my own family and close friends; my sister is an alumna of the program who will graduate from JABSOM this May and my roommate, a former classmate of mine at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, is a current participant of the program. I have personally witnessed the amazing academic feats of 'Imi Ho'ola students and how this program has benefitted them as they moved on to become medical students at JABSOM and future physicians in the community. As someone who is from a disadvantaged background, the 'Imi Ho'ola program was a chance for me to become a physician Hawai'i desperately needs; it is still that chance for many underserved students striving to attend medical school. I hope that the committee will support this program that has given hope for so many aspiring doctors of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Although I am not an alumna of the program, I believe in its mission and have had the privilege of interacting and working with many of its alumni, including classmates, faculty members, lecturers, and physicians. Please give SB2392 serious consideration as it would be a direct investment in ensuring that our physician workforce truly reflects the demographics of Hawai'i. I hope that the committee shares the same sentiment and will strongly support SB 2392.

Respectfully,
Courtney Ip

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 9:52:48 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

March 13, 2020 at 2:30pm, Room 309

By
Dr. Aimee Malia Grace
Director, Office of Strategic Health Initiatives
University of Hawai'i System
(*Testifying in my individual capacity*)

SB2392 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

Description: "Appropriates funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Hoola student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine."

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in my **individual capacity** in **strong support** of SB2392 SD1. My name is Aimee Malia Grace, MD, MPH, FAAP and I am a pediatrician and Director of the Office of Strategic Health Initiatives for the University of Hawai'i (UH) System. I lead the UHealthy Hawai'i initiative, which aims to leverage the UH System to improve health and health care in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

SB2392 SD1 would provide stipends to 'Imi Ho'ōla post-baccalaureate students from disadvantaged students during their intensive one-year preparatory program before entering the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

The state of Hawai'i has a significant shortage of physicians and health professionals, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are significantly underrepresented in the health professions. The UH System has significant health sciences programs that collectively play an essential role in educating Hawai'i's health workforce and addressing the health challenges facing Hawai'i and the Pacific. UHealthy Hawai'i's first focus is on ensuring a robust statewide health workforce. UH leaders have been closely engaged with the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i's Health Workforce Initiative, which has a focus on increasing the number of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i's health workforce to address our numerous needs.

Despite the significant need for more health professionals, Native Hawaiians and students from other racial/ethnic minority and disadvantaged backgrounds are continually underrepresented in the health field.^{1,2} In 2012, only 3.4% of the physician workforce in Hawai'i were Native Hawaiian and only 0.3% were Pacific Islander.³ Increasing the diversity of the workforce so that it reflects the population it serves is

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6727686/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6708885/>

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3347733/>

important to ensure the provision of high-quality, high-value, and culturally effective care.⁴

The significant need for health professionals in Hawai'i means that patients may lack access to the best possible care and that Hawai'i's residents miss opportunities for fulfilling and often good-paying jobs. These needs are more pronounced for Native Hawaiian and other disadvantaged populations.

Pipeline programs like 'Imi Ho'ōla are critical to ensure that students from disadvantaged backgrounds have the support they need to learn and thrive in challenging academic environments and become caregivers and leaders in the medical profession. Given the rigor of the 'Imi Ho'ōla experience, stipends would help to eliminate external barriers to high achievement for members of the cohort.

During my medical training at JABSOM, I knew many highly-qualified 'Imi Ho'ōla graduates that reflected on how their experience in 'Imi Ho'ōla was incredibly challenging but prepared them extremely well to succeed in medical school.

Please provide robust support for stipends to support post-baccalaureate students in the 'Imi Ho'ōla program at JABSOM. By doing so, you will demonstrate support for increasing representation of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other Hawai'i residents from disadvantaged backgrounds in our state's health workforce and beyond.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6727686/>

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:47:57 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahie Kama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Mahie Kama and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am a member of one of the cohorts that has been put on for this program, and it has really solidified my resolve for wanting to become a healthcare provider for my community.

Respectfully,
Mahie Kama

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:51:56 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lansing Sugita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Lansing Sugita and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

Respectfully,
Lansing Sugita

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 11:03:28 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taralyn Titus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of S.B. 2392 S.D.1. This bill would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'Ā• la student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

It is crucial to support funding for the 'Imi Ho'Ā• la Post-Baccalaureate Program since its program provides a crucial pathway for promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds and people from under-represented communities to succeed and become physicians. 'Imi Ho'Ā• la has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The programs mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies. To date, 278 'Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians. We need state funding for 'Imi Ho'Ā• la to continue to "Grow our own physicians and healers".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2392 S.D.1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Taralyn Titus

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 11:15:06 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makoa Mau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 11:17:54 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vanessa Freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Vanessa Freitas and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

It has given students like me, who come from a socially and financially disadvantaged background, the chance to become a doctor. I hope to foster a more compassionate and culturallary competent workforce in Hawaii.

Respectfully,
Vanessa Freitas

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 11:29:23 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylee-Ray Tactacan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Kylee-Ray Kau'iokalani Tactacan and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

The Imi Ho'ola program embodies an important mission to support students of disadvantaged backgrounds such as Hawaiian, Filipino, Samoan, Chamorro, and Micronesian descent, to achieve their goal to pursue medicine. For many students, especially of this background who plan to practice the state of Hawai'i, attaining a medical education is not solely based on the principles of Western medicine such as diagnosis, medicine to them is much more complex. Thus, their vision for medicine is to be competent in the ways in which they will understand their patients' community, culture, and daily lifestyle, and use their background to connect with their patients. With that being said, the only institution that can provide this kind of education is the John A Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). While many share this view and want to learn medicine in the community they plan to serve, attaining admissions to JABSOM is extremely difficult, especially with the unequal distribution of opportunities amongst people of different backgrounds and the limited seats available. The Imi Ho'ola program bridges the gap, allowing those with disadvantaged backgrounds to take a different path to attain JABSOM admissions. An opportunity to not be set back by their background, and prove that they are just as competent as other students. This program also allows its students to set themselves up for success in medical school and a lifelong career in medicine, by providing a firm foundation and strong support system. The Imi Ho'ola program is unique in many ways and serves the people of Hawai'i by allowing them to attain their goals of medicine and become the physicians they are destined to be. I fully support the Imi Ho'ola program for what it does in leading the change for health prosperity in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,
Kylee-Ray Kau'iokalani Tactacan

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 11:40:24 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sachi Kaulukukui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

Happy early Saint Patrick's Day! I, Sachi Kaulukukui **strongly support the Imi Hoola program.** SB 2392. Mahalo nui Rep. Woodson for meeting with us and Rep. Nishimoto last week.

Today is a great epiphany that we need more kamaaina physicians taking care of our communities. Doctors that can relate/ease fears and promote preventative health measures.

For almost 50 years, Imi Hoola has increased the number of local physicians from disadvantaged backgrounds and committed to serving in Hawaii.

Mahalo for taking the time to read!

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 12:11:59 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsie Ziegler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Chelsie Ziegler and I am a supporter of the 'Imi Ho'ola Program. I am currently an undergraduate student looking to potentially attend John A. Burns School of Medicine.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide 'Imi Ho'ola student stipends to program participants.

The mission of 'Imi Ho'ola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 'Imi Ho'ola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

It is vital for people of all backgrounds to get equal opportunities to pursue their career goals. Pursuing a career in medicine is difficult enough without having to worry about financial expenses. With the physician shortage we face, 'Imi Ho'ola stipends are investments in the quality of Hawai'i's healthcare. Students who do not get into JABSOM right away are given the opportunity to improve their skill set with the 'Imi Ho'ola program. After successfully completing the program, students are accepted into JABSOM as medical students. Given that the 'Imi Ho'ola program is an additional cost on top of the cost of attending JABSOM, stipends will allow students to focus on their studies without having to worry about these expenses. Relieving students of this financial stress may help turn out a higher number of physicians for our community.

Respectfully,

Chelsie Ziegler

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 12:05:11 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 12:23:37 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a physician and teacher of medical students, I deeply value the contribution of students (and later residents and colleagues) who have first-hand experience of some of the challenges our disadvantaged patients face and who can place our patients at ease by acknowledging shared experiences that I, as a privileged transplant from the mainland, cannot. The 'Imi Ho'ola program is extremely valuable in preparing students for their journey towards becoming physicians who will help alleviate Hawaii's physician shortage and contribute to our society for decades to come. 'Imi Ho'ola graduates have been, over the years, some of the most passionate and dedicated medical students I have been privileged to teach. Please ensure this funding is made available to the program. Thank you.

Maya Maxym, MD PhD

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 12:48:08 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KSL	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower and Higher Education (LHE),

Thank you for hearing the SB 2392 SD1 in your Committee on LHE and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 2392 SD1**.

I am a pediatrician practicing on Oahu and a proud graduate of the Imi Ho'ola program. I am a product of our public school system and an immigrant family. My father completed high school and my mother only completed eighth grade due to the cultural revolution in China. English is my second language, but I was able to thrive in public school, attend college, and even completed a Master's degree. My road to success was sprinkled with many challenges. I did not have the luxury of having no financial worries, no cultural gaps, or no gender biases. Nevertheless, I knew my calling was medicine and to serve my community. I am grateful to have been selected for the Imi Ho'ola program. At the time, I was working full-time and living on my own. My family could not support me; they barely supported me through my undergraduate years. The stipend I received during that year helped with rent and food, which allowed me to focus on my studies. My father also died of lung cancer a few days before my final exams. The stipend that I received reminded me that someone believes in me and I can persevere (thank you Art Ushijima and Queen's Health System). I believe that this bill is important for future students and their success.

Imi Ho'ola is a program for disadvantaged students and hope to select those who will serve Hawai'i. This program does not only provide an opportunity to attend medical school but is also a place of love. My very close friends are my Imi classmates. Everyone in the program wants each one of us to succeed and we will always have someone to support us, even when we are practicing physicians. And they were there for me when my father passed away. I do not believe I would have become a physician without the Imi Ho'ola program nor would I have survived without the stipend.

The Imi Ho'ola program also provides a pipeline for physicians to remain in Hawaii. Five of the eight in my class that matriculated to JABSOM are currently practicing in Hawaii (1 on Kaua'i). Although I completed my residency on the mainland, there was always the plan to return to Hawaii despite the astronomical medical school debt I have accumulated. I am now serving our community, but I also give back to our medical school by teaching medical students and residents. I am very mindful that Imi Ho'ola gave me this opportunity and I have my duty to return the love back to the community and to future physicians. If we do not nurture our own, we will probably lose more physicians to competitive salaries and lower cost of living on the mainland (or to a pandemic).

It is very important to me that SB 2392 SD1 will pass because it will provide continued support to the Imi Ho'ola program and stipends for future students. Please value the impact of the Imi Ho'ola program and how the stipends have changed lives, not just for the students but also our community. Pass SB 2392 SD1 that will appropriate funds for Imi Ho'ola student stipends and for other Imi Ho'ola student support programs at the discretion of the department of Native Hawaiian Health of JABSOM. Thank you so much for your time and the support of the Imi Ho'ola program.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 12:48:19 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dillon Tacdol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Dillon Tacdol and I am a past alumnus of the Imi Hoola program. I am currently a 2nd year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

The Imi Hoola program helped to challenge me due to the academic rigor of the program. It has also allowed me to make many connections with current physicians and aspiring medical students.

Imi Hoola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies.

To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians.

Respectfully,

Dillon Tacdol

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 12:58:05 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arlene Kiyohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Arlene Kiyohara and I am a graduate of the Imi Hoola program. I am currently a 2nd year medical student.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

The 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate program pushed me to the limit and helped me to reach my true potential. The tremendous amount of material that we had to learn in a short amount of time taught me how to develop strong and efficient study skills and strengthened my background in the academic sciences. I came out prepared for medical school and felt very confident in working alongside my other classmates. I am truly grateful to receive a stipend to financially support myself and my family while I focused on my studies. The 'Imi Ho'ola program has shaped me into the inquisitive, hard-working, and passionate student that I am now. I hope to graduate from the John A. Burns School of Medicine as a compassionate and competent physician who will work hard to lessen the health care barriers of the underserved communities and to provide them with the best health care possible.

Imi Hoola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies.

To date, 278 Imi graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

March 13, 2020 at 2:30 pm, Room 309

By

Jane Uyehara-Lock, M.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SB2392 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Description: “Appropriates funds for Imi Ho’ola student stipends or for other Imi Ho’ola student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.”

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in my **individual capacity** in **strong support** of SB2392 SD1. My name is Jane Uyehara-Lock, M.D., FCAP, FASCP and I am a pathologist and faculty member at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawai'i. My principal role at JABSOM is to teach and mentor medical students.

SB2392 SD1 would provide stipends to Imi Ho’ola post-baccalaureate students from disadvantaged backgrounds for an intensive one-year preparation program before entering John A. Burns School of Medicine. This stipend is especially important since our students can’t work while in this program and can’t apply for federal financial aid.

There is a significant shortage of physicians and health professionals, in the state of Hawai'i. Physicians with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ethnic backgrounds are significantly underrepresented in the health professions. In addition, students from disadvantaged backgrounds (first in the family to apply to a professional school, first in the family to acquire a college degree, parents who never went to college, parent(s) who are poor immigrants, family with financial or social hardship, etc.) are very underrepresented in the health professions.

The Imi Ho’ola post-baccalaureate program serves to provide these students with intensive preparatory coursework, mentorship, and opportunity to succeed in medical school. This essentially evens the field with the type of preparation work students from more privileged backgrounds are able to acquire.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 1:10:48 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen G. Pulido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Stephen Pulido and I am a graduate and supporter of the Imi Hoola program.

This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide Imi Hoola student stipends to program participants.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. I was one of those disadvantaged students. When my counselor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa advised that I should not apply to medical school I did so anyways. When I did not get accepted to any medical school I applied to the Imi Hoola program. I was accepted into the program and later matriculated to the John A Burns School of Medicine. Now I am a Family Physician working in primary care. I am the first and only person in my family that went to graduate school let alone become a physician. The Imi Hoola program changed my life and the trajectory of my family's for future generations. I needed this program to succeed; and for the people of Hawaii to get the best medical care, the best culturally competent care, the people of Hawaii need the Imi Hoola program.

Respectfully,

Stephen G. Pulido

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Maile Amine and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I was a part of the Native Hawaiian Student Pathway to Medicine Program offered at the John A. Burns School of Medicine under the Department for Native Hawaiian Health. This program helped me to provide me with much more knowledge for applying to medical school and I was able to do meet with and network with other medical students, including few from the Imi Hoola program. I was able to learn much more about the Imi Hoola program and I was able to firsthand see the significance of the program and how it really helped students prior to medical students.

Respectfully,

Maile

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 1:48:00 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for moving forward with this bill. As LT. Gov Josh Green informs the community of COVID-19 on the Hawaii News Now, it does confirm that we need more doctors in Hawaii. Especially doctors that care for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you again!

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 1:56:27 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sasha Raymond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Sasha Raymond and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am an Imi Ho'ola alumni and am now a successful practicing physician in our community. It would mean so much to the future of Hawaii and our community to continue this very necessary program.

Respectfully,
Sasha Raymond, M.D.

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2392, SD1

Submitted March 12, 2020

LATE

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong **support** of SB 2392, SD1 which would appropriate funds for 'Imi Ho'ōla student stipends or for other 'Imi Ho'ōla student support programs at the discretion of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health (DNHH) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

It is crucial to support funding for the 'Imi Ho'ōla Post-Baccalaureate Program since this program provides a vital pathway for promising students from disadvantaged backgrounds and people from under-represented communities to succeed and become physicians. Unlike those from more privileged backgrounds, 'Imi Ho'ōla students have had to overcome socioeconomic hardships like poverty or being first in their family to graduate from college. Also 'Imi students face added financial difficulty since they cannot work while they attend 'Imi because it is an extremely rigorous academic program.

However, since it is rigorous, the 'Imi Ho'ōla program prepares students to excel in medical school. Through 'Imi, the very students who face socioeconomic hardships, have become strong leaders and role models in medical school at JABSOM. Overcoming hardships in life teaches 'Imi students resilience and a deep compassion for people who have suffered, so most 'Imi Ho'ōla physicians return to their communities to serve in areas where the healthcare crisis is the greatest in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

My family and friends living in the Neighbor islands and Rural Oahu face a severe shortage of physicians. Without access to primary care physicians, people are forced to wait to receive healthcare, and instead end up with worse illnesses that require expensive Emergency room visits or longer hospitalizations that cost thousands of dollars. By "Growing our own Physicians," the 'Imi program is one solution to our severe shortage of physicians.

While Hawai'i has a severe shortage of physicians, we also have an even more severe shortage of Native Hawaiian physicians. Native Hawaiians are about 24% of the population in Hawai'i, however only 3% of the physicians in Hawai'i are Native Hawaiian physicians. Native Hawaiians suffer the worst health in their own homeland, so we must nurture more Native Hawaiian physicians who are committed to being leaders in improving the health of Native Hawaiians and all those in Hawai'i who lack access to quality health care.

Although admission to 'Imi Ho'ōla is not limited by race or ethnicity, a large number of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander students are from a disadvantaged background and are eligible to be considered for the 'Imi program. At JABSOM, 38% of Native Hawaiians, 34% of Filipinos, 57% of Micronesians, and 89% of Samoan physicians accessed medical school and

successfully graduated from JABSOM through the Imi Ho`ōla program. 'Imi Ho'ōla's contributions to Pacific Islander diversity at JABSOM are clearly significant.

We need a diverse healthcare workforce to serve Hawaii's diverse people.

If we don't take care of the health of All our people, then all of Hawai'i suffers from economic hardships due to people facing worse illnesses from lack of access to physicians and quality medical care.

To date, 278 physicians are 'Imi Ho`ōla alumni who successfully graduated from JABSOM and have cared for thousands of people in clinics and hospitals throughout our islands. We need state funding for 'Imi Ho`ōla to continue to "Grow our own physicians and healers."

We must address the health of All Our People of Hawai'i, not just some. I strongly urge you to **pass SB 2392, SD1.**

Mahalo nui loa,

Sasha Fernandes

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 2:31:07 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Britney Q	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2392 because without the 'Imi Ho'ola Program and the Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health I would not be months away from earning the title and responsibility of "Doctor". Some years ago I completed the 'Imi Ho'ola Program as a single mother receiving SNAP assistance. It was always my dream to become a physician so I could help the people of Hawaii. I told myself that when I become a doctor, I will give back to the people and especially serve those who were like me--from Hawaii, a young/single mother, Native Hawaiian, on welfare, etc. Going through the program was rough as the coursework was very difficult (then again learning to become a doctor is difficult), but it was necessary. **Without the financial support via student stipends, there is NO way I would have been able to successfully complete the program--I would have had to continue working full-time to support my family AND study.** Instead, the financial stipend gave me the opportunity to divert 100% of my attentions to learning. Currently, I am a 4th year medical student that will be a Family Medicine (Primary Care) Provider serving the people of Hawaii through excellence in healthcare.

As a State, we are experiencing a shortage of doctors, especially those that provide the first line of defense--primary care physicians. If things do not change, the quality of life and wellness will decline for everyone. While some effects will be quickly evident, others may take years to be fully realized. Recent US Census data shows our island population is increasing for all age groups, but the rate of increase in people aged 65+ is also increasing compared to the rest of the U.S. Older individuals tend to have more health challenges and see doctors more often than other age groups. To balance this current and future demand, we need an equal or larger supply of doctors to meet the need. This is where **financial support of programs that literally "grow local doctors" is critical.**

The 'Imi Ho'ola Program overseen by the Department of Native Hawaiian Health is essential in helping local kids become doctors. The Program is rigorous but necessary in teaching students the skills to succeed in the field of medicine and channeling the grit needed to sustain such a long journey. More than 3 out of 4 students that complete the 'Imi Ho'ola Program are locally practicing physicians and more than half of its graduating students go into primary care (Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Medicine). On these statistics alone, it can be reasoned that the **'Imi Ho'ola Program generates doctors that practice in Hawaii.** The 11-month program is very tough and requires full-

commitment from its students to learn the complex science and medical knowledge in a short amount of time, which is why the Program offers financial support to students so they may focus on the difficult coursework.

It is written that *"a wise man leaves an inheritance for his children's children"*. **Please vote in SUPPORT of SB2392** so that your children's children have: 1) the doctors they need to be healthy now and in the future, and also 2) the chance to become physicians that the State of Hawaii so desperately needs. Thank you for your time in reading my testimony and serving to advise on the presented bill.

Sincerely,

Kanoe

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 2:40:26 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabe S. Fernandes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB 2392, SD1 to provide funding for Imi Hoola student stipends and other Imi Hoola student support programs. Mahalo.

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 2:43:16 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Treschuk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB 2392, SD1 to provide funding for Imi Hoola student stipends and other Imi Hoola student support programs. Mahalo nui

LATE

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 3:03:30 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vanessa Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Vanessa Wong and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am one of those 278. Having been born and raised in Guam to Micronesian immigrants, medicine as a career was not even on the radar as a possible career choice. It was while I was an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii that I was exposed to various health careers. Through the support of mentors and peers in these programs, I found myself on the challenging and unlikely path to becoming a physician. The 'Imi Ho'ola Program played a significant role in building my confidence, fostering lifelong learning skills, and creating a support network that would carry me through some tough times. The program challenged me to grow and succeed beyond what I imagined was possible. I graduated from the John A. Burns School of Medicine in 1999, completed my family medicine training in 2002, and have been a family physician and medical educator since then. I am who I am today in large part because of the 'Imi Ho'ola Program. And I know there are 277 others who share that same thought.

The people who are chosen to participate in 'Imi Ho'ola are special. They are dedicated, compassionate and true servant leaders. I wish you could meet all 278 of us who have graduated and learn about all the amazing contributions we've made to improving the health of our communities.

This bill deserves your support and I thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Vanessa S. Wong, MD, MS

LATE

SB-2392-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:09:28 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/13/2020 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leon Matsuo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee on Lower & Higher Education (LHE),

My name is Leon Matsuo and I am a supporter of the Imi Hoola program. This testimony is in strong support of SB 2392 SD1.

The mission of Imi Hoola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. To date, 278 Imi Hoola graduates have successfully entered and completed JABSOM and are now fulfilling their dreams as physicians and serving their communities.

I am one of the graduates of Imi Hoola, graduating in 2003. Imi Hoola provided me the opportunity to enter medical school, while receiving the rigorous training and mentorship needed to prepare for the challenges of medical school and beyond. It has also provided me with a stipend while in the program, allowing me the necessary and extensive time needed to focus on my studies and training instead of having to worry about finances and getting a job to make ends meet.

Hoola has contributed to increasing the ethnic diversity of JABSOM students, especially Native Hawaiian physicians (of which I am proud to be one) which make up only a small percentage of Hawaii's physicians. Having Native Hawaiian physicians are important as patients better relate to and may be more receptive to advice provide by a doctor from their community and who understands their culture. Patients then are more likely to follow through with recommended care and be on a path to improved health. This is crucial considering Native Hawaiians have some of the poorest heath in a number of chronic diseases of all the ethnic groups, not only in Hawaii, but also in the U.S. as a whole (per a 2017 CDC study).

Participating in Imi Hoola has culminated in the ability to serve as a Native Hawaiian primary care physician in Kona, a place with a dire physician shortage. I would not be where I am today if not for Imi Hoola and it's staff. Please strongly support SB 2392 SD1. Mahalo.

Respectfully,

Leon Matsuo, MD, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics

March 12, 2020

LATE

Testimony in support for SB 2392 SD1 Relating to Health

House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

SB 2392 Appropriates funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Ho`ola student support programs at the discretion of the department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

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Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Noa Emmett Aluli, MD and I am a graduate of the first class of the University of Hawai`i School of Medical in 1975 - a "Dean's Guest Program" medical student - a precursor of the `Imi Ho`ola program.

I am currently in my 45th year of a family medicine private practice on Molokai, and a Executive Medical Director at the Molokai General Hospital - a Queens Health System Critical Access Hospital.

As a founding member and current President of the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians - called Kauka Hui, I submit testimony in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide Imi Ho`ola students stipends to program participants.

In 1975 there were 5 of us "Dean's Guest participants graduating and joining only 12 other Native Hawaiian practicing physicians. Today, we believe there are over 300 Native Hawaiian Physicians - to date 278 `Imi Ho`ola alumni!

The `Imi Ho`ola Post-Baccalaureate Program is a proven diversity pipeline program that provides educational opportunities to disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine. Since 1973, `Imi Ho`ola (Hawaiian meaning those who seek to heal) has successfully equipped deserving local students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve success in the competitive field of medicine.

The mission of `Imi Ho`ola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through a program that enhances disadvantaged students' academic and professional readiness for medical school. The program accepts up to 12 students per year and once enrolled, participants gain a conditional acceptance to

JABSOM. `Imi Ho`ola's success is largely due to the longstanding commitment by the medical school, community supporters, and stakeholders.

One of the purposes of our Kauka Hui is to provide mentorship for not only these students, but premedical Native Hawaiian and other indigenous students.

Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai`i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies.

Mahalo

**LATE**

**LATE**

March 12, 2020

Testimony in support for SB 2392 SD1 Relating to Health

House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

SB 2392 Appropriates funds for Imi Hoola student stipends or for other Imi Ho'ola student support programs at the discretion of the department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

---

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

My name is Noa Emmett Aluli, MD and I am a graduate of the first class of the University of Hawai'i School of Medical in 1975 - a "Dean's Guest Program" medical student - a precursor of the 'Imi Ho'ola program.

I am currently in my 45th year of a family medicine private practice on Molokai, and a Executive Medical Director at the Molokai General Hospital - a Queens Health System Critical Access Hospital.

As a founding member and current President of the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians - called Kauka Hui, I submit testimony in strong support of SB 2392 SD1 which would provide Imi Ho'ola students stipends to program participants.

In 1975 there were 5 of us "Dean's Guest participants graduating and joining only 12 other Native Hawaiian practicing physicians. Today, we believe there are over 300 Native Hawaiian Physicians - to date 278 'Imi Ho'ola alumni!

The 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program is a proven diversity pipeline program that provides educational opportunities to disadvantaged students pursuing careers in medicine. Since 1973, 'Imi Ho'ola (Hawaiian meaning those who seek to heal) has successfully equipped deserving local students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve success in the competitive field of medicine.

The mission of 'Imi Ho'ola is to improve health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians through a program that enhances disadvantaged students' academic and professional readiness for medical school. The program accepts up to 12 students per year and once enrolled, participants gain a conditional acceptance to JABSOM. 'Imi Ho'ola's success is largely due to the longstanding commitment by the medical school, community supporters, and stakeholders.

One of the purposes of our Kauka Hui is to provide mentorship for not only these students, but premedical Native Hawaiian and other indigenous students.

Imi Ho`ola has supported diverse students for over 45 years. The program's mission continues to focus on improving health care for Hawai'i and the Pacific by increasing the number of physicians by addressing disadvantaged students' academic and professional needs.

Once students complete the program, they enter JABSOM as medical students. The educational barriers these students face often include financial challenges. This stipend is a critical factor which allows students to focus on their studies.

Mahalo