Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2023

RE: S.B. No. 164
        S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

     Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was
referred S.B. No. 164 entitled:

     "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LOAN REPAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE
     PROFESSIONALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

     The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds for the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program for health care
professionals, provided that the funds are matched on a dollar-
for-dollar basis by funds from a private or another public source.

     Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industrial
Relations, John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of
Hawai'i at Mānoa, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, Kaiser
Permanente Hawai'i, Hawai'i-American Nurses Association, Hawaii
Substance Abuse Coalition, Hawai'i Primary Care Association, Hawaii
Medical Association, Hawai'i Pacific Health, Healthcare Association
of Hawaii, and one individual.

     Your Committee finds that Hawaii faces a critical need for
recruitment and retention of physicians to serve in rural and
medically underserved areas of the State. Your Committee also
finds that the increasingly high cost of education for health care
professionals drive graduates to practice in highly specialized
fields of care in urban areas, where they are given sufficient

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income to repay costly student loans. This has resulted in less health care professionals in rural areas of the State, where the need for their service is vital. Additionally, since 2012, the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program administered by the John A. Burns School of Medicine has successfully provided loan repayments to seventy-six individuals, in exchange for work commitments in underserved geographic practice areas in Hawaii. Eighty percent of the seventy-six individuals remained in Hawaii, while sixty-one percent remained at the site where they performed their service. Therefore, this measure aims to appropriate funds to the Department of Health to fund the Hawaii State Loan Repayment Program for the continuation of financial incentives to health care professionals working in health care shortage areas of the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1)   Inserting "branch" to the loan program name, to read "National Health Service Corps Branch Loan Repayment Program"; and

(2)   Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 164, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 164, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB164	HHS, WAM	02/15/23

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312   ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311   ☐ Hold 2310   ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5			

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted   ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: _____

*Only <u>one</u> measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 11/30/22