

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1070**  
**RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS**

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: January 31, 2025; 1:34 PM

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** No appropriation request.

2 **Department Testimony:** DOH supports SB1070 which expands the list of healthcare specialties  
3 that are eligible for the preceptor tax credit.

4 The Department of Health and the Hawaii State Center for Nursing first partnered together for  
5 this program in 2018. A 2024 evaluation found that over 871 clinicians have attested to  
6 meeting the Preceptor Tax Credit Program requirements, illustrating that tax credits are a  
7 motivating factor for both experienced preceptors and first-time preceptors.

8 Of the total 871 providers who registered for the tax credit, in 2023, 361 had recorded teaching  
9 hours, and 310 earned tax credits. Cumulatively over time, these 871 providers have received a  
10 total of 2,657 tax credits (\$2,657,000). Provider registration into the tax credit program  
11 increased by 132% from 2019 to 2023.

12 DOH applauds the Hawaii State Center for Nursing's vision in conceptualizing this program, and  
13 professionalism and efficiency in implementing it. The department strongly supports  
14 enactment of this measure to ensure new generations of clinicians are ready to serve patients.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**JOSH GREEN M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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**TESTIMONY OF**  
**GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

**TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. No. 1070, Relating to Healthcare Preceptors

**BEFORE THE:**

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**DATE:** Friday, January 31, 2025

**TIME:** 1:34 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 225

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding S.B. 1070 for your consideration.

S.B. 1070 amends section 235-110.25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding the healthcare preceptor income tax credit, by:

- (1) amending the definition of "preceptor" and "volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation" to include specialty providers who support the development and training of students in clinical health care practice;
- (2) removing "primary care" practice as a criteria to qualify as a preceptor;
- (3) amending the definition of "eligible professional degree or training certificate," by adding students in the areas of physician assistants, dietitians, and social workers;
- (4) amending the definition of "eligible student" by adding physician assistant students, dietitian students, social work students, or residents enrolled in an eligible academic program, residency program, or fellowship;
- (5) adding a definition for "residency program" to include residency or fellowship programs, nationally accredited through academia or employers;

- (6) amending the definition of “nationally accredited” to include nursing residents, pharmacy students, physician assistant students, dietician students, and social work students, that are each accredited by their unique accrediting bodies;
- (7) clarifying that a preceptor may be compensated through their clinical salary for providing standard clinical services, distinguishing those services from the volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation that is applicable to this credit;
- (8) amending the preceptor credit assurance committee to include the Director of Health or the director’s designee, the Hawaii/Pacific basin area health education center, the center for nursing, and academic and residency programs with eligible students; and
- (9) accepting accreditation by any other accreditation body recognized by the preceptor credit assurance committee.

This measure is effective on July 1, 2025, provided that the expanded definitions in section 2 apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

DOTAX can administer this measure by the current effective dates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

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SUBJECT: NET INCOME, Expand Healthcare Preceptor Credit

BILL NUMBER: HB 303, SB 1070

INTRODUCED BY: HB by TAKAYAMA, KITAGAWA, Marten, Miyake, Olds, Pierick, Sayama, Todd; SB by KEOHOKALOLE, CHANG, MCKELVEY, RHOADS, RICHARDS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Expands the definitions of "preceptor" and "volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation" to improve accessibility for providers to receive income tax credits for acting as preceptors, including removing "primary care" from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor. Adds dietitians, physician assistants, and social workers to the list of preceptors and eligible students. Expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support. Adds the Director of Health and residency programs with eligible students to the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 235-110.25(g), HRS, to add definitions for dietician student, physician assistant student and social work student and adds these professions to the definition of "eligible student" and "Preceptor" for purposes of the healthcare preceptor income tax credit.

Amends section 235-110.25(g), HRS, to add a definition for residency program.

Amends section 235-110.25(g), HRS, definition of eligible student to add students enrolled in a residency program or fellowship.

Amends section 235-110.25(g), HRS, definition of "volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation" to allow a preceptor to be compensated for providing standard clinical services, while providing that the preceptor be uncompensated for (1) the clinical training above or beyond clinical salary or reimbursements for clinical services, or 2) the provision of clinical training services from tuition funds or from state general funds.

Makes other conforming changes to section 235-110.25(g).

Amends section 321-2.7(a)(2)(C), HRS, to add attestation provisions if the preceptor is compensated.

Amends section 321-2.7(b), HRS, to revise the membership of the preceptor credit assurance committee, adding the director of health or the director's designee, and representatives of academic programs with eligible students and residency programs with eligible students.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025; Section 2 applicable to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

STAFF COMMENTS: The credit for healthcare preceptors was added by Act 43, SLH 2018. This measure appears to arise from the department of health's first five-year evaluation of

the program made to the 2024 Legislature. The evaluation noted an increase in preceptors and recommended the addition of other classes of health care providers.

The bill, by allowing physician assistants, dieticians, and social workers into the program and removing the current restriction to primary care, scales the program up and will have a revenue impact.

Digested: 1-24-25



**LATE**

Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
January 31, 2025

Dr. Corrie L. Sanders on behalf of  
The Hawai'i Pharmacists Association (HPhA)

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support with amendments of SB 1070** which amends the successful Preceptor Tax Credit program that allows for income tax incentives to health care providers who volunteer to provide clinical training for Hawai'i's future health care workforce. This bill also expands the definition of "preceptor" and "volunteer based supervised clinical training rotation" and removes "primary care" from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor while adding other care professionals for eligibility with the inclusion of residency programs.

We would like to acknowledge the interdisciplinary working group within the University of Hawai'i System to expand these tax credits across various health professions. We strongly support the reasoning outlined by this team to **further expand this initiative to include pharmacists and pharmacy residency preceptors** across the state that continue to educate and train the next generation of student pharmacists without any financial incentive.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Pharmacists Association, mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1070 with amendments.

Very Respectfully,

Corrie L. Sanders, PharmD., BCACP, CPGx  
Director, Hawai'i Pharmacists Association



### **Hawaii Medical Association**

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

#### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Date: January 31, 2025

From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)

Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

**Re: SB 1070 Healthcare Preceptors;** Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit; Dieticians; Physician Assistants; Social Workers; Residency Programs; Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee; Director of Health

**Position: Support**

Clinical preceptors are vital to the maintenance of solid education and experience for future physicians of Hawaii, as well as the recruitment to our state when training is complete. HMA strongly supports all efforts to address healthcare professional education and our critical Hawaii physician shortage.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

#### **2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers**

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President  
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

#### **2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team**

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair

Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: January 31, 2025

Re: Support for SB1070 – Relating to Healthcare Preceptors

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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 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff 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 **supports** SB1070, which expands eligibility for the health care preceptor tax credit by clarifying that preceptors may be compensated for standard clinical services and including specialties that support the development and training of students in primary care, and includes the Director of Health on the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee.

Queen's supported the creation of the preceptor tax credit in 2018 as one of several methods to address the shortage of primary, community-based and acute care providers in the state of Hawai'i. One successful avenue to incentivize providers to participate as preceptors is a tax credit for practitioners willing to volunteer their time and provide their expertise as mentors. Queen's alone has approximately 131 residents and fellows in our residency program supported by preceptors. We support the amended definition of "preceptor" to include specialists which will further expand the diversity of preceptors in our residency and fellowship programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System 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.*



Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 225

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1070  
Relating to Health Care Preceptors**

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My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of SB 1070 which amends the definition of “preceptor” and “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation” to improve accessibility for providers to participate in the preceptor tax credit program. The bill also removes “primary care” from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor, and adds physician assistants, social workers, and licensed dietitians to the list of preceptors as these providers are invaluable to the training of future health care professionals and reflects Hawai'i's interprofessional training philosophy. The measure further expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support.

Preceptors are advanced practice registered nurses (APRN), physicians (MD), pharmacists (PH), and other healthcare professionals who volunteer their clinical time to teach and train students. The lack of sufficient numbers of healthcare professionals to act as preceptors impacts many of the University of Hawai'i's programs in nursing, medicine and pharmacy in terms of the programs' ability to train students. Passed in 2018, the preceptor tax credit has helped to increase the pool of health profession training programs and alleviate the crisis of the preceptor shortage. The preceptor tax credit offers state income tax credits for APRN, MD, DO, and PH providers who volunteer as preceptors.

While the tax credit provides an incentive to the preceptors, the current statutory definitions have limited the number of preceptors who are eligible for the credit. Physicians who maintain a primary care practice in the state provide a valuable service, however, physicians in other fields of specialty practice also are vital to providing training

in primary care. Expanding the definition of “preceptor” to include other fields of practice would expand the pool of available preceptors to train new healthcare providers and allow for enhanced training opportunities to grow our workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Government Relations Director

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

January 31, 2025  
1:34 p.m.  
Via Videoconference  
Conference Room 225

**Re: SB 1070, Relating to Healthcare Preceptors**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1070, which makes several changes to the current Hawaii Preceptor Tax Credit, which was established in 2019, by broadening the type of clinical rotations eligible to include all clinical specialties and include a larger group of healthcare professionals vital to the interdisciplinary healthcare workforce needs of Hawaii

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS SB 1070.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 271,000 members in Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the people living in the communities we serve.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports SB 1070 because it would expand the definition of "preceptor" to acknowledge the many medical specialists who support the training of primary care students and who would be eligible for the credit but for the narrow definition of the term. Training for primary care requires precepting experiences with both primary and specialist providers. Furthermore, the inclusion of physician assistants (PA), social workers, and licensed dietitians reflects the inclusion of a larger group of healthcare professionals properly reflects the interdisciplinary healthcare workforce in Hawaii.

In 2023, KP physician preceptors supported over 250 individual eligible rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, geriatrics, continuing care, and sports medicine for a total of 19,324 rotation hours, resulting in 108 tax credits. Pharmacy preceptors also supported 676 rotation hours for 6 tax credits. In addition, we had 40 nurse preceptors and placed 285 students throughout inpatient nursing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference**

**By**

Katherine Gardner Bougard, MSN, APRN-Rx, PMHNP-BC, PMHCNS-BC

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of this measure**. By way of this measure, Katherine Gardner Bougard does not ask for new or expanded appropriations to the tax credit program.

This measure, S.B. 1070, proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow a broader array of specialty providers who engage in teaching future primary care providers, clarify the definition of “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation” related to both time spent teaching students and what constitutes compensation for precepting, and amend the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to improve administration and roles. In addition, this measure increases access to the tax credit program by including all specialties who engage in precepting, and expand the professions to include physician assistants, social work, and registered dietitians. The proposed changes are in line with the recommendations in the five-year assessment of the Preceptor Tax Credit Program.

In 2018, the Hawai‘i Legislature enacted Act 43, which authorized and funded \$1.5 million in tax credits for advanced practice registered nurse, physician, and pharmacist professionals who train in-state students in their respective practice areas. This program was intended to help alleviate the bottleneck within health education programs related to a shortage of clinical education sites and preceptors. The tax credit program has successfully grown the preceptor base over time.

**While the program is achieving the established goals there is room to grow.**

Based on the current performance and anticipated growth in the tax credit allocations by expanding the tax credits beyond primary care, funds remain. The Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee voted in favor of supporting other critically needed health professions by way of this program considering that there is a need, an ability to maintain the program's legally mandated verification requirements, and fiscal capacity.

**Behavioral health is an integral part of comprehensive primary care.** *As a psychiatric mental health nurse with fifteen years of experience working with children and adolescents in Hawai'i, I can assure you that behavioral health services are critically important to an individual's overall health and should be an integral part of providing comprehensive primary care.*

I am proud to work at a clinic that is dedicated to precepting student Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNPs). This past year I was informed that none of the providers in the clinic – psychiatrists or Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) - met the criteria for the Preceptor Tax Credit, because we are training PMHNP's, not primary care physicians. As an APRN and PMHNP, we are educated and trained to address more than what's generally considered mental health. We evaluate and support child development, sleep disorders, school success, learning differences, family and peer relationships, and refer and collaborate with other professionals, such as pediatricians, medical specialists, dentists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, teachers, and academic tutors to optimize the overall health of children and families. Many times, we are also the ones that support and motivate patients to work with their primary health care provider to manage their health conditions when they otherwise wouldn't.

**SB1070 helps students graduate and become part of the workforce.**

There are very few qualified preceptors in our state who have the interest and/or motivation in precepting students due to their competing professional, personal and financial demands. This tax credit will compensate health professionals for their time.

Student PMHNPs across our state are having a very difficult time finding qualified and available preceptors to provide them with the 500 plus clinical hours required for adequate training and graduation from their programs. While I have precepted PMHNP students for the last year and half, I have had to turn down twice as many preceptor requests because I am only one provider and there are only so many hours in a day.

Precepting student PMHNPs is a worthwhile investment and something that I view as my professional responsibility as a nurse, but it is also a challenging commitment that takes up significant time and resources. This tax credit would help recruit more preceptors so students can get trained, enter the workforce and serve our community.

**Summary**

Given the skyrocketing need for behavioral health services in Hawai'i, especially following the pandemic and the Lahaina wildfires, and the awareness and appreciation that behavioral health services are an integral part of comprehensive primary care, I respectfully ask the Committee to pass this measure. As a nurse and PMHNP, like all other behavioral health providers across the state, I see our patients waiting far too long for the mental health support they need. For all patients, but especially for our youth, waiting months or more for services risks worsening symptoms, academic and social failure, and compounded stress which can lead to suicidal ideation and other forms of self-harm.

I thank your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i and ensuring timely access to high-quality comprehensive primary care by supporting local healthcare education and training initiatives.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 p.m.

By

T. Samuel Shomaker, Dean and  
Kelley Withy, MD, Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health,  
Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Director

John A. Burns School of Medicine

and

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, Dean  
UH School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

and

Alex Ortega, Dean  
UH Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean  
UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

and

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

and

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### SB 1070 – RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is presented on behalf of UH System, including John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), UH School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH), the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, and the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy and School of Nursing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 1070 which amends the successful Preceptor Tax Credit program that allows for income tax incentives to health care providers who volunteer to provide clinical training for Hawai'i's future health care workforce. The bill expands the definition of "preceptor" and "volunteer based supervised clinical training rotation" to improve accessibility for volunteer providers to receive income tax credits for serving as preceptors. The bill also removes "primary care" from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor, and adds physician assistants, social workers, and licensed dietitians to the list of preceptors as these providers are



invaluable to the training of future health care professionals and reflects Hawai'i's interprofessional training philosophy. The measure further expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support. In 2017, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing identified a preceptor shortage.

Preceptors are volunteer Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), physicians (MD), pharmacists (PH), and other healthcare professionals who volunteer their clinical time to teach our students. In speaking to fellow health professional programs, it became evident that the preceptor shortage was not ours alone, but a shared crisis among many of the UH programs in nursing, medicine and pharmacy. In 2018, the Legislature passed Act 43 with the goal to help our state health profession training programs alleviate this crisis by offering state income tax credits for APRN, MD, DO, and PH providers who volunteer as preceptors.

Although the preceptor tax credit program has been successful in attracting more healthcare professionals, questions remain as to the program's language regarding compensation and specialty practice language. This has resulted in fewer providers accessing this tax credit, even though the allocation and credit cap was secured in 2018.

Preceptors, or employed clinical providers who teach students during their workday, with no substantive change to their workload, and no additional compensation for teaching, are concerned that their existing clinical salary equates compensation under the preceptor tax credit provision. Therefore, clarifying the type of the compensation that a preceptor receives would assist in determining eligibility for the tax credit.

Similarly, because over 90% of APRNs are employed, this has affected existing preceptors as well as identifying potential new preceptors. Additionally, as all of our programs lead to primary care certifications and prepare future primary care providers, the educational programs require students to complete specialty rotations to deepen their ability to address common primary care conditions. These specialties include but are not limited to cardiology, endocrinology, pulmonology, and mental and behavioral health. These specialty rotations help the future provider learn when referral to specialists is necessary for a patient and how to refer.

JABSOM as well as other healthcare professions rely on volunteer preceptors who provide training and supervision to our students and residents. These preceptors play a vital role in educating the next generation of physicians, APRNs, pharmacists and other healthcare professions. The amendments to the definitions of "preceptor" and "volunteer-based supervised clinical training program" contained in the bill will expand the field of preceptors so that we may grow our training programs for primary care providers.

Practicum placements are a signature component of both undergraduate and graduate social work education. Students' work in community-based organizations provides space for their academic work to be applied to real world situations. In order for student

practicums to occur, each student must be matched with an individual field instructor who is required by our accrediting body to be a social worker. With the current workforce shortage of social workers and the high needs for their services in the state and beyond, we find it increasingly difficult to recruit practicum instructors. A practicum instructor's work with a student is considered beyond the normal scope of their day to day duties. We recognize the tremendous resource social work practicum instructors provide and know the success of the preceptor tax credit in allied professions has been tremendous. Social workers in Hawai'i would very much welcome the opportunity to access this tremendous benefit to support a vital workforce for community wellbeing.

The education training path for a pharmacist differs from nursing and medicine as well as the way clinical pharmacists' practice. The pharmacy student training curriculum stresses foundation building in the first three years of a four-year curriculum. The final fourth year includes both advanced primary care and specialty care pharmacy rotations. This training is based upon the profession's pharmacist role that combine both primary care (general medication management) and specialty disease management regardless of whether the practice setting is in the hospital or acute care setting, outpatient clinic or retail/specialty community pharmacy.

A pharmacist may receive a referral for a specific area of care (diabetes, blood pressure, asthma) however, in order to address the patient's specific need, review of the entire medication profile from a generalist standpoint must occur first. For example, a diabetes certified pharmacist receives a referral to initiate and maintain a diabetes medication(s) and monitor the disease. In order to manage the diabetes itself, the pharmacist must address the entire medication profile and all of the patient's disease states, especially chronic diseases that include major organ systems such as heart, kidney, liver and other major areas. Ongoing management of all medications and diseases is performed on a routine basis with the patient being part of the pharmacist's panel for ongoing management. This pharmacist becomes the 'primary' health care professional in regards to medication related diseases.

Thank you for your support of the state healthcare workforce development and healthcare education in Hawai'i.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025; 1:34 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1070, RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS.**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 1070, RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Improve accessibility for providers to receive income tax credits for acting as preceptors;
- (2) Expand the list of preceptors and eligible students to include physician assistants, social workers, and licensed dietitians;
- (3) Expand eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support; and
- (4) Revise the membership of the preceptor credit assurance committee to include the Director of Health and residency programs with eligible students.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 2025 and apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

This bill would enhance a financial incentive to improve the quality and stock of Hawaii's future healthcare workforce. Accordingly we commend this effort and wish to participate in any and all discussions concerning workforce development.

**We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference  
By  
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC  
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of this measure**. By way of this measure, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing does not ask for new or expanded appropriations to the tax credit program.

This measure, S.B. 1070, proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow a broader array of specialty providers who engage in teaching future primary care providers, clarify the definition of “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation” related to both time spent teaching students and what constitutes compensation for precepting, and amend the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to improve administration and roles. In addition, this measure increases access to the tax credit program by including all specialties who engage in precepting, and expand the professions to include physician assistants, social work, and registered dietitians. The proposed changes are in line with the recommendations in the five-year assessment of the Preceptor Tax Credit Program.

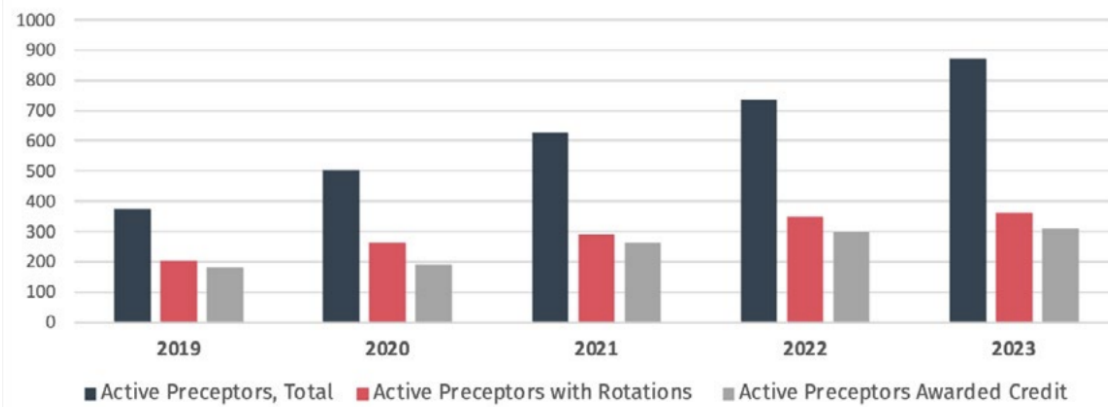
MAINTAIN	ADD	CHANGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep the process that local schools submit clinical rotation information;</li><li>• Keep the requirement that preceptors must self-verify their location, license information, specialty, and lack of existing compensation for precepting; and</li><li>• Keep, and clarify, the requirement that the tax credit is for non-compensated precepting activities only.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add additional healthcare provider professions with schools in Hawai'i, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, registered dietitians, and physician assistants.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove primary care specialty requirement for preceptors; and</li><li>• Remove requirement that only preceptor education for primary care students may be eligible for tax credits.</li></ul>

**TABLE I: RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY FROM THE PRECEPTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.*

In 2018, the Hawai'i Legislature, in their great wisdom, enacted Act 43, which authorized and funded \$1.5 million in tax credits for advanced practice registered nurse, physician, and pharmacist professionals who train in-state students in their respective practice areas.

This program was intended to help alleviate the bottleneck within health education programs related to a shortage of clinical education sites and preceptors. The tax credit program has successfully grown the preceptor base over time (Figure 4). However, there is room to expand the program even with the positive growth.



**FIGURE 4: GROWTH IN PRECEPTORS, REGISTERED, WITH ROTATIONS AND RECEIVING TAX CREDITS**

### **While the program is achieving the established goals, there is room to grow.**

As one of the two administering organizations of the Preceptor Tax Credit program and Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee, the Center has verified that Social Work, Physician Assistants, and Registered Dietitians have the same professional criteria that currently enables us to maintain a functioning program for APRNs, physicians, and pharmacists. These criteria include: 1) professionals maintaining licensure in Hawai'i; 2) in-state schools that maintain preceptor coordination; 3) preceptor education that occurs during education enrollment (as opposed to post-graduation activities); and 4) schools with national accreditation. These standards are used in the verification process to ensure eligibility of preceptors and participating academic programs, as defined in H.R.S. 235-110.45 and H.R.S. 321-2.7.

Further, based on the current performance and anticipated growth in the tax credit allocations by expanding the tax credits beyond primary care, funds remain. The Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee voted in favor of supporting other critically needed health professions by way of this program considering that there is a need, an ability to maintain the program's legally mandated verification requirements, and fiscal capacity.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing respectfully asks the Committee to pass this measure through your committee. The Center thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i and ensuring access to high-quality health care by supporting local healthcare education and training initiatives.

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.*



DATE: 29 Jan 2025

TO: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair  
Health and Human Services

RE: SB1070 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS

Hearing Date/time: Friday 01-31-25 1:34PM

Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Vice-Chair Aquino,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1070, which expands the definitions of preceptor and volunteer based supervised training rotations to improve accessibility for providers to receive income tax credits for acting as preceptors, including removing “primary care” from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor. Adds dietitians, physician assistants, and social workers to the list of preceptors and eligible students. Expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support.

**The Hawai‘i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1070.** HAPA is the Hawai‘i state chapter of The American Academy of PAs.

HAPA supports SB1070 because it will include physician assistants (PA) and physician assistant students in the Preceptor Tax Credit (PTC) program. This will create equitable opportunities for clinical education among PAs and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) students of Hawai‘i based academic institutions, and equity among PA and APRN preceptors who voluntarily supervise clinical training rotations; whereas currently only physicians and APRNs who precept medical or APRN students are eligible for the PTC. Additionally, the bill supports the clinical training requirements of PA, medical, and APRN students who must receive clinical training in a variety of clinical specialties as set by their respective national accreditation standards. Finally, this bill recognizes the importance of an interdisciplinary healthcare workforce by also including Social Workers and Dietitians and Social Work and Dietician students in the PTC.



The Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants recognizes that PA education in Hawai'i is crucial for expanding the state's healthcare workforce. The establishment of the Hawai'i Pacific University PA Program on O'ahu, and the MEDEX Kona PA Program on Hawai'i Island, further demonstrates a commitment to training PAs specifically prepared to serve Hawai'i's communities. By supporting clinical preceptors who supervise PA training throughout the state, we can better ensure that PA graduates secure employment and encourage them to build long-term careers in Hawai'i.

Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PAs play a critical role on healthcare delivery teams, and along with their physician and APRN counterparts, help ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients.

It is important to note that the proposed revisions to the PTC will not result in an increase in the Preceptor Tax Credit. The current cap on the tax credit is 1.5 million dollars/tax year. The program as it stands, awarded \$676,000 in tax credits in 2024, with a cumulative \$2,657,000 tax credits issued to Hawai'i's currently eligible preceptors since the program started in 2019. By expanding eligibility to include additional healthcare providers, these excess funds can be allocated more effectively to support a broader range of preceptors and students. Expanding this program ensures that these resources are used to maximize their impact on healthcare education, equality, and access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important healthcare workforce issue.

Sincerely,

Leocadia Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C  
Legislative Liaison  
Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA)





## **Philippine Medical Association of Hawai'i**

94-837 Waipahu Street, Waipahu, HI 96797

P.O.Box 1294, Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782 • Ph: 888-674-7624

• Fax: 888-391-7624 pmahinfo@gmail.com • www.pmah-hawaii.org

**Rhea Bautista, MD**

*Executive Director*

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To: The Honorable Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, the Honorable Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1070

Aloha Esteemed Committee Members,

The Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) submits this testimony in strong support of SB1070, which seeks to expand the healthcare preceptor tax credit program to include additional healthcare professions and residency programs.

As a professional organization composed of physicians and healthcare providers from a wide range of specialties and subspecialties, PMAH recognizes the pivotal role that preceptors play in training the next generation of healthcare providers. Many of our members, including specialists in fields such as cardiology, nephrology, infectious diseases, oncology, and other subspecialties, dedicate countless hours to mentoring medical students and residents. These subspecialists provide critical clinical training, exposing students to the complexities of advanced care while reinforcing the importance of patient-centered and evidence-based medicine.

The inclusion of subspecialty preceptors in this program is especially important given Hawai'i's growing need for specialized healthcare providers. Subspecialists are not only vital in treating complex conditions but also in training healthcare providers to recognize and manage these conditions early, reducing the burden on the healthcare system. By expanding the eligibility criteria for the preceptor tax credit to include all accredited residency programs and a broader range of healthcare disciplines, SB1070 ensures that students and residents receive comprehensive training that spans both primary and specialized care.

The role of subspecialists extends beyond direct patient care. These preceptors often introduce students to cutting-edge therapies, innovative diagnostic approaches, and the collaborative nature of multidisciplinary care. Subspecialist preceptors are essential in building a healthcare workforce capable of addressing the full spectrum of patient needs in Hawai'i, from preventive care to complex and emergent conditions. By incentivizing their participation as preceptors, SB1070 directly supports the development of a well-rounded and skilled healthcare workforce.

PMAH firmly believes that the proposed amendments in SB1070 represent an essential step forward in addressing Hawai'i's healthcare provider shortage. By acknowledging the invaluable contributions of subspecialist preceptors, this bill invests in the long-term sustainability and quality

of healthcare across the state.

We urge this committee to pass SB1070, ensuring that Hawai'i continues to build a strong, diverse, and capable healthcare workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of PMAH.

Respectfully submitted,

Rainier Dennis D. Bautista, MD, DABFM, FAAFP

President, Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii

Best regards,

Rainier Dennis D. Bautista, MD

President, Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii



**January 31, 2025 at 1:34 pm**  
**Conference Room 225**

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
AVP, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SB 1070, Relating to Healthcare Preceptors**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this measure, which seeks to expand the eligibility criteria for the healthcare preceptor tax credit in Hawaii and make other changes to strengthen the program. This program is important to addressing the pressing shortage of healthcare providers in our state by improving the accessibility of these tax credits for more provider types, including those who may provide specialty care.

Preceptors play an indispensable role in the education and training of our future healthcare workforce. They serve as experienced mentors, providing hands-on clinical training and supervision to students across various healthcare disciplines. This mentorship is vital for students to translate theoretical knowledge into practical skills, ensuring they are well-prepared to deliver high-quality patient care upon entering the workforce.

Expanding the eligibility for this successful program to include a broader range of healthcare providers will help incentivize more professionals to serve as preceptors. This expansion is expected to enhance the training opportunities for students and help to ensure a more robust pipeline of well-trained providers ready to meet the diverse healthcare needs of our population.

Thank you for hearing this important measure and your continued support for building a strong healthcare workforce in Hawaii.

# Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)

Subject: SB1070 – Relating to Healthcare Preceptors

Hearing: January 31, 2025, at 1:34 p.m.

**LATE**

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura, Chair; Senator Aquino, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN), we appreciate the opportunity to voice our strong support for SB1070, which enhances the healthcare preceptor tax credit program to ensure the continued development of Hawaii's healthcare workforce.

Hawaii continues to face a critical shortage of healthcare providers, and preceptors play an essential role in training the next generation of professionals. This bill expands eligibility and removes unnecessary barriers, particularly for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) students in specialty areas, ensuring they receive the clinical education required to serve our communities effectively.

## **The Critical Role of SB1070 in Supporting APRNs**

APRNs are an integral part of Hawaii's healthcare system, providing essential services in both primary and specialty care settings. SB1070 strengthens the APRN workforce pipeline by:

1. Expanding Preceptor Eligibility – Ensuring that APRN students across various specialties, including behavioral health, geriatrics, and chronic disease management, have access to qualified mentors.
2. Enhancing APRN Residency Support – Including residency programs in the tax credit framework creates structured pathways for APRNs to transition into independent practice with confidence.
3. Eliminating Barriers for APRN Preceptors – Removing outdated limitations ensures that APRNs in specialty roles can serve as preceptors, broadening training opportunities.
4. Fostering Local Training & Retention – APRNs who train in Hawaii are more likely to stay and serve local communities, directly addressing our ongoing provider shortages.

## **The Impact of the Preceptor Tax Credit on APRNs**

APRNs rely on access to qualified preceptors to complete clinical training, meet licensure requirements, and enter independent practice. Since the preceptor tax credit's inception, it has been instrumental in increasing the number of trained providers. SB1070 builds upon this success, ensuring that more APRNs can complete their training locally, thereby improving healthcare access across the state.

By incentivizing preceptors in various specialties and settings, SB1070 strengthens the continuity and quality of care for Hawaii's residents, ensuring that APRNs receive comprehensive training that prepares them for the realities of healthcare practice in diverse environments.

HAPN remains steadfast in advocating for policies that uplift APRNs and enhance healthcare accessibility. SB1070 aligns with our mission to advance the profession, expand training opportunities, and ultimately improve patient care in Hawaii.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass SB1070, recognizing its role in securing the future of our healthcare workforce. Mahalo for your consideration and unwavering commitment to addressing Hawaii's healthcare challenges.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeremy Creekmore, APRN  
HAPN President

**LATE**

**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:36:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amr El-Sergany	Testifying for Pacific Vascular	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DATE: 29 Jan 2025

TO: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura

Vice-Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

Health and Human Services

RE: SB1079 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS

Hearing Date/time: Friday 01-31-25 1:34PM

Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Vice-Chair Henry J.C. Aquino,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1070, which expands the definitions of preceptor and volunteer based supervised training rotations to improve accessibility for providers to receive income tax credits for acting as preceptors, including removing “primary care” from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor. Adds dietitians, physician assistants, and social workers to the list of preceptors and eligible students. Expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support.

As a vascular surgeon, Medical Director of Pacific Vascular Institute, and the Medical Director of the Physician Assistant (PA) Program at Hawai‘i Pacific University, I strongly support SB1070 because it will include physician assistants (PA) and physician assistant students in the

Preceptor Tax Credit (PTC) program. This will create equitable opportunities for clinical education among PAs and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) students of Hawai'i based academic institutions, and equity among PA and APRN preceptors who voluntarily supervise clinical training rotations; whereas currently only physicians and APRNs who precept medical or APRN students are eligible for the PTC. Additionally, the bill supports the clinical training requirements of PA, medical, and APRN students who must receive clinical training in a variety of clinical specialties as set by their respective national accreditation standards. Finally, this bill recognizes the importance of an interdisciplinary healthcare workforce by also including Social Workers and Dietitians and Social Work and Dietician students in the PTC.

Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PAs play a critical role on healthcare delivery teams, and along with their physician and APRN counterparts, help ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients.

It is important to note that the proposed revisions to the PTC will not result in an increase in the Preceptor Tax Credit. The current cap on the tax credit is 1.5 million dollars/tax year. The

program as it stands, awarded \$676,000 in tax credits in 2024, with a cumulative \$2,657,000 tax credits issued to Hawai'i's currently eligible preceptors since the program started in 2019. By

expanding eligibility to include additional healthcare providers, these excess funds can be

allocated more effectively to support a broader range of preceptors and students. Expanding this program ensures that these resources are used to maximize their impact on healthcare education, equality, and access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important healthcare workforce issue.

Sincerely,

Amr El-Sergany, MD RPVI  
Medical Director / Pacific Vascular Institute / HPU PA Program

Vascular & Endovascular Surgery  
Trauma & General Surgery

c352-870-7393





**LATE**

Written Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Health  
January 30, 2025

By the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA)

Re: SB 1070 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS

Chairperson Senator Joy A San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Senator Henry Acquino,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment on SB 1070. We provide testimony on behalf of our professional member organization, the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA), whose mission is “to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs).”

IN SUPPORT WITH COMMENT FOR SB 1070

Currently in the State of Hawai'i, there is no school for midwifery for a student nurse midwife (SNM) pursuing a CNM credential nor for a student midwife (SM) pursuing a CM credential. All Hawai'i-based midwifery students must either travel to the continent for their masters degree or complete a remote program pending their ability to obtain clinical sites and preceptors. As none of these programs are based in Hawai'i, no preceptor of a SNM or SM can apply for a tax credit. We hope this bill can address this oversight.

As a part of the purpose of our organization to grow the profession, we offer support to student midwives. Listed on our midwife directory, there are 45 CNMs and one CM working in the State. From within this group, very few CNM and CM are in a position to precept, either due to institutional limitations or not having the required volume if in private practice. HAA members are intimately aware of the negative impact on aspiring students and their families due to this lack of access to clinical sites and preceptors.

This is also a social justice issue. As an organization, we are proud of our efforts to address issues of equity as it relates to education. Currently, there is only one Kānaka Maoli CNM working in the State. In the years to come, we hope there will be more and more representation of Native Hawaiian providers as well as an expansion of providers from Pacific Islander communities. Any manner of incentive for working CNM and CMs who are in a position to precept will support ‘growing our own.’

The amendments we seek in this bill would be: 1) to include the CNM and CM within credentials eligible for a tax credit & 2) a provision for eligibility for a tax credit to be extended to those precepting to Hawai'i-based students to support growing our profession to serve their communities.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony and we are available for comment via email.

Sincerely,

The Hawai'i Affiliate of ACNM Board

Annette Manant, PhD, ARPN, CNM President

Connie Conover, CNM, MSN Vice President & Treasurer

Margaret Ragen, CM, LM, MS Secretary & Affiliate Legislative Contact

acnmhawaiiaffiliate@gmail.com

<https://hawaiiidwives.org/>

**LATE**

**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:31:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura and Committee members,

My name is Charlene Kiana Rowley, and a nursing graduate of UH Manoa and former Castle Medical Center labor and delivery nurse currently attending Georgetown University online as a Graduate student for Certified Nurse Midwife, CNM, and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, WHNP. These programs are not available in the state of Hawaii and I have been struggling to complete my degree due to lack of preceptors. A tax credit for these preceptors would help to incentives more in state options for students like myself. I currently reside in Kula Maui where I was raised and am raising kids of my own near my parents and siblings. To leave my community to complete my degree has not been possible for me and considering adding our profession of midwifery to your bill would provide a much needed incentive. Midwives contribute significantly to the health of our mothers and babies. Please consider the suggested edits below.

Suggested edits:

Page 2 lines 10-12: "additional health care provider professions that have 11 established schools serve students who are full time residents of Hawaii should be added to the tax credit 12 eligibility,"

Page 3 lines 1-7: "expansion is also limited by available preceptors, including 2 social workers, physician assistants, and registered dieticians, 3 as well as workers in high—demand specialties such as behavioral 4 health. As such, the healthcare preceptor tax credit should not 5 be limited to physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, 6 and pharmacists and should be expanded to be applied across all 7 eligible professions.

Page 3 line 18-20: "Add physician assistants, social workers, certified professional midwives, certified midwives, and licensed 19 dieticians to the list of preceptors and in the 20 definitions of "eligible student";

Page 4 lines 10-15: " "Academic program" means an academic degree granting 11 program or graduate medical education program that: 12 (1) Holds either its principal accreditation or a physical 13 location in Hawaii; and 14 (2) Provides education to students, of whom more than 15 fifty per cent are residents of Hawaii. (3) Provides education to students who are full time residence of Hawaii attending a distance or online Midwifery program"

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration  
sincerely,

Charlene Kiana Rowley, BSN RN, SNM/SWHNP





**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference  
By**

**Cathy K. Bell, MD, pediatrician, psychiatrist, child psychiatrist  
Kahala Clinic for Children & Family**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of this measure**. By way of this measure, **Kahala Clinic for Children & Family** does not ask for new or expanded appropriations to the tax credit program.

This measure, S.B. 1070, proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow a broader array of specialty providers who engage in teaching future primary care providers. The proposed changes are in line with the recommendations in the five-year assessment of the Preceptor Tax Credit Program.

In 2018, the Hawai'i Legislature enacted Act 43, which authorized and funded \$1.5 million in tax credits for professionals who train in-state students in their respective practice areas. This program was intended to help alleviate the bottleneck within health education programs related to a shortage of clinical education sites and preceptors. The tax credit program has successfully grown the preceptor base over time.

**Behavioral health is an integral part of comprehensive primary care**

I completed the Triple Board Program at the University of Hawaii in 2000. This program was created and state funded to train physicians who could integrate behavioral health into primary care. As a triple boarded physician in pediatrics, general psychiatry and child & adolescent psychiatry, I firmly believe and have seen over the past twenty four years of clinical practice, that behavioral health services are critically important to an individual's overall health and should be an integral part of providing comprehensive primary care.

This past year I was informed that I did not meet the criteria for the Preceptor Tax Credit, despite being a pediatrician, because I was training psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNP's), not primary care physicians. I find it interesting since the PMHNP's that I have trained all worked as nurses for 6+ years and will continue to use their knowledge and experience as nurses when they help patients as a PMHNP. In

addition, as psychiatric practitioners we address more than what's generally considered mental health. We evaluate and support child development, sleep/airway, school success, learning differences, family and peer relationships, and refer and collaborate with other professionals, such as pediatricians, medical specialists, dentists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, school teachers, and OG tutors to optimize the overall health of children and families. Many times, we are also the ones that support and motivate patients to work with their health care provider to manage their health conditions when they otherwise wouldn't.

I found these definitions of primary care:

- Primary care aims to provide accessible, comprehensive, and continuous healthcare to individuals and families, focusing on maintaining their health and well-being. It is considered the foundation of a healthcare system and plays a crucial role in early detection, prevention, and management of health issues.”
- Primary care refers to the initial and ongoing health care services provided by healthcare professionals. It encompasses a wide range of medical activities, including: preventive care, diagnostic care, treatment care, health education and counseling and coordination of care

### **SB1070 helps students graduate and become part of the workforce**

There are insufficient qualified preceptors in our state who have the interest and/or motivation in precepting students due to their competing professional, personal and financial demands. This tax credit will recruit more qualified preceptors by compensating health professionals for their time.

From 2016 - present, I have trained college students, medical students and child psychiatry residents, without compensation. The college students considering graduate school as health professionals are concerned about the difficulty securing preceptorships. To effectively build an adequate workforce, we need to ensure that they are able to secure a preceptorship that allows them to practice their profession.

Since 2023, I have trained six psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNP's), without compensation. We have hired two of them and will be bringing at least two more on board in 2025. This year, only two of our psychiatrists will be training six more PMHNP's. We currently have seven psychiatrists and four nurse practitioners, however, the majority are not serving as preceptors due to the time demands of training and the competing interest of serving patients. The tax credit would allow our clinic and other qualified preceptors to train more physicians and PMHNP's.

I receive many inquiries from students from PMHNP, physician assistant, and marriage & family therapy programs, desperate in finding clinical preceptorships so they can graduate. Sadly, I do not have the capacity to take them all and have to turn some away. This tax credit would help recruit more preceptors so students can get trained, enter the workforce and serve our community.

### **Summary**

Given the skyrocketing need for behavioral health services in Hawaii especially following COVID and the Lahaina fires, the awareness and appreciation that behavioral health services are an integral part of comprehensive primary care, and the real bottleneck hindering students in graduating and entering the workforce, I respectfully ask the Committee to pass this measure through your committee. The clinicians in our office, like all other behavioral health clinicians in the state, are not able to provide timely access to services. For all patients, but especially for our youth, waiting 3-12 months or more for services risks worsening symptoms, academic and social failure, added stress and risk of suicide. I thank your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i and ensuring timely access to high-quality comprehensive primary care by supporting local healthcare education and training initiatives.

**LATE**

**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:00:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Komal Soin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am in support of expanding the preceptor tax credit as a family medicine physician living in Hawaii. We are in need of more preceptors at the residency sites and this would be a helpful motivator.

Mahalo

Komal Soin



**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:48:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Callaway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1070, which expands the definitions of preceptor and volunteer based supervised training rotations to improve accessibility for providers to receive income tax credits for acting as preceptors, including removing “primary care” from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor. Adds dieticians, physician assistants, and social workers to the list of preceptors and eligible students. Expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support.

The Hawai‘i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1070.

HAPA is the Hawai‘i state chapter of The American Academy of PAs.

HAPA supports SB1070 because it will include physician assistants (PA) and physician assistant students in the Preceptor Tax Credit (PTC) program. This will create equitable opportunities for clinical education among PAs and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) students of Hawai‘i based academic institutions, and equity among PA and APRN preceptors who voluntarily supervise clinical training rotations; whereas currently only physicians and APRNs who precept medical or APRN students are eligible for the PTC. Additionally, the bill supports the clinical training requirements of PA, medical, and APRN students who must receive clinical training in a variety of clinical specialties as set by their respective national accreditation standards. Finally, this bill recognizes the importance of an interdisciplinary healthcare workforce by also including Social Workers and Dieticians and Social Work and Dietician students in the PTC.

The Hawai‘i Academy of Physician Assistants recognizes that PA education in Hawai‘i is crucial for expanding the state's healthcare workforce. The establishment of the Hawai‘i Pacific University PA Program on O‘ahu, and the University of Washington MEDEX PA Program on Hawai‘i Island, further demonstrates a commitment to training PAs specifically prepared to serve Hawai‘i's communities. By supporting clinical preceptors who supervise PA training throughout the state, we can better ensure that PA graduates secure employment and encourage them to build long-term careers in Hawai‘i.

Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PAs play a critical role on healthcare delivery teams, and along with their physician and APRN counterparts, help ensure

the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients. It is important to note that the proposed revisions to the PTC will not result in an increase in the Preceptor Tax Credit. The current cap on the tax credit is 1.5 million dollars/tax year. The program as it stands, awarded \$676,000 in tax credits in 2024, with a cumulative \$2,657,000 tax credits issued to Hawai'i's currently eligible preceptors since the program started in 2019. By expanding eligibility to include additional healthcare providers, these excess funds can be allocated more effectively to support a broader range of preceptors and students. Expanding this program ensures that these resources are used to maximize their impact on healthcare education, equality, and access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important healthcare workforce issue.

Emily Callaway, PA-C

**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:35:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill in support of clinical preceptors for our community.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference**

**By**

**Dominique Monroe Student at University of Hawai'i, Psychology Major**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of this measure**. By way of this measure, **Kahala Clinic for Children & Family** does not ask for new or expanded appropriations to the tax credit program.

This measure, S.B. 1070, proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow a broader array of specialty providers who engage in teaching future primary care providers, clarify the definition of “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation” related to both time spent teaching students and what constitutes compensation for precepting, and amend the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to improve administration and roles. In addition, this measure increases access to the tax credit program by including all specialties who engage in precepting, and expand the professions to include physician assistants, social work, and registered dietitians. The proposed changes are in line with the recommendations in the five-year assessment of the Preceptor Tax Credit Program.

MAINTAIN	ADD	CHANGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep the process that local schools submit clinical rotation information;</li><li>• Keep the requirement that preceptors must self-verify their location, license information, specialty, and lack of existing compensation for precepting; and</li><li>• Keep, and clarify, the requirement that the tax credit is for non-compensated precepting activities only.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add additional healthcare provider professions with schools in Hawai'i, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, registered dietitians, and physician assistants.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove primary care specialty requirement for preceptors; and</li><li>• Remove requirement that only preceptor education for primary care students may be eligible for tax credits.</li></ul>

**TABLE I: RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY FROM THE PRECEPTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

## **Personal statment**

Given the skyrocketing need for behavioral health services in Hawaii especially following COVID and the Lahaina fires, the awareness and appreciation that behavioral health services are an integral part of comprehensive primary care, and the real bottleneck hindering students in graduating and entering the workforce, I respectfully ask the Committee to pass this measure through your committee.

My preceptor provides valuable hands-on lessons for me. This bill will help encourage more healthcare providers to continue mentoring future professionals. My doctor deserves to be able to teach with the eligibility of tax credits. By passing this bill it will benefit both the students and the healthcare system as whole. As a student I personally worry if this bill is not passed what may happen to teaching within healthcare and how much less exposure students would have with these amazing experiences.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference  
By  
Jacob Marquez  
Student at University of Hawaii at Manoa**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

This measure, S.B. 1070, proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow a broader array of specialty providers who engage in teaching future primary care providers, clarify the definition of “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation” related to both time spent teaching students and what constitutes compensation for precepting, and amend the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to improve administration and roles. In addition, this measure increases access to the tax credit program by including all specialties who engage in precepting, and expand the professions to include physician assistants, social work, and registered dietitians. The proposed changes are in line with the recommendations in the five-year assessment of the Preceptor Tax Credit Program.

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**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference  
By**

Alyssa Ito, student at University at Mānoa, psychology major

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

This measure, S.B. 1070, proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow a broader array of specialty providers who engage in teaching future primary care providers, clarify the definition of “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation” related to both time spent teaching students and what constitutes compensation for precepting, and amend the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to improve administration and roles. In addition, this measure increases access to the tax credit program by including all specialties who engage in precepting, and expand the professions to include physician assistants, social work, and registered dietitians. The proposed changes are in line with the recommendations in the five-year assessment of the Preceptor Tax Credit Program.

MAINTAIN	ADD	CHANGE
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**TABLE I: RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY FROM THE PRECEPTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Personal statment

Given the skyrocketing need for behavioral health services in Hawaii especially following COVID and the Lahaina fires, the awareness and appreciation that behavioral health services are an integral part of comprehensive primary care, and the real



bottleneck hindering students in graduating and entering the workforce, I respectfully ask the Committee to pass this measure through your committee. My preceptor provides valuable hands-on lessons for me. My doctor deserves to be able to teach with the eligibility of tax credits. By passing this bill it will benefit both the students and the healthcare system as whole.

**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:34:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brianna Susan Woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1070, which expands the definitions of preceptor and volunteer based supervised training rotations to improve accessibility for providers to receive income tax credits for acting as preceptors, including removing “primary care” from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor. Adds dietitians, physician assistants, and social workers to the list of preceptors and eligible students. Expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support.

I am a current PA practicing in Hawaii for the last five years. I alone has supervised over twenty medical, nursing, and physician assistant students during this period with a goal to expand the medical coverage here in the state of Hawaii. I support this bill along with my HAPA colleagues to encourage and provide support for people who continue to help the future of medical care here in the State of Hawaii.

The Hawai‘i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB1070. HAPA is the Hawai‘i state chapter of The American Academy of PAs. HAPA supports SB1070 because it will include physician assistants (PA) and physician assistant students in the Preceptor Tax Credit (PTC) program. This will create equitable opportunities for clinical education among PAs and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) students of Hawai‘i based academic institutions, and equity among PA and APRN preceptors who voluntarily supervise clinical training rotations; whereas currently only physicians and APRNs who precept medical or APRN students are eligible for the PTC. Additionally, the bill supports the clinical training requirements of PA, medical, and APRN students who must receive clinical training in a variety of clinical specialties as set by their respective national accreditation standards. Finally, this bill recognizes the importance of an interdisciplinary healthcare workforce by also including Social Workers and Dietitians and Social Work and Dietician students in the PTC.

The Hawai‘i Academy of Physician Assistants recognizes that PA education in Hawai‘i is crucial for expanding the state's healthcare workforce. The establishment of the Hawai‘i Pacific University PA Program on O‘ahu, and the University of Washington MEDEX PA Program on Hawai‘i Island, further demonstrates a commitment to training PAs specifically prepared to serve Hawai‘i's communities. By supporting clinical preceptors who supervise PA training throughout the state, we can better ensure that PA graduates secure employment and encourage them to build long-term careers in Hawai‘i.

Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who

receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PAs play a critical role on healthcare delivery teams, and along with their physician and APRN counterparts, help ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients.

It is important to note that the proposed revisions to the PTC will not result in an increase in the Preceptor Tax Credit. The current cap on the tax credit is 1.5 million dollars/tax year. The program as it stands, awarded \$676,000 in tax credits in 2024, with a cumulative \$2,657,000 tax credits issued to Hawai'i's currently eligible preceptors since the program started in 2019. By expanding eligibility to include additional healthcare providers, these excess funds can be allocated more effectively to support a broader range of preceptors and students. Expanding this program ensures that these resources are used to maximize their impact on healthcare education, equality, and access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important healthcare workforce issue.

**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:47:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brijit Reis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Vice-Chair Aquino,**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1070, a measure I strongly support as a pediatrician working in the community. As a healthcare provider dedicated to serving the children and families of Hawai'i, I wholeheartedly support efforts that aim to improve accessibility to training and support for a wide range of healthcare professionals.

SB1070 is an important step forward because it expands the definition of preceptors and volunteer-based supervised training rotations, which in turn helps create broader opportunities for healthcare providers to qualify for income tax credits. This includes removing "primary care" from the criteria to qualify as a preceptor, which ensures that a more diverse group of healthcare providers can participate.

The bill's expansion of eligible preceptors to include not only physician assistants (PAs) but also dietitians, social workers, and physician assistant students is a significant and much-needed change. These additions help recognize the multidisciplinary nature of healthcare teams, particularly in a state like Hawai'i where access to care across specialties is crucial for addressing the diverse needs of our population. As a pediatrician, I see the value of working alongside social workers, dietitians, and PAs in providing comprehensive care to children, and I believe this bill will encourage more collaboration and educational opportunities across healthcare disciplines.

The inclusion of PAs in particular is vital. PAs are an integral part of our healthcare system, especially in the face of a physician shortage in Hawai'i. By supporting PA education through the expansion of the Preceptor Tax Credit, we are investing in the future of healthcare delivery in Hawai'i. As a pediatrician, I work closely with PAs, and I know firsthand the positive impact they have on patient care. Their extensive training and ability to work in a variety of clinical settings is essential to meeting the needs of our community.

This bill is also important because it will help ensure that future healthcare professionals, including those in the PA, medical, and APRN programs, receive the comprehensive clinical training they need. By supporting preceptors who volunteer their time and expertise to guide these students, SB1070 helps foster a robust, well-trained healthcare workforce that will be better equipped to serve Hawai'i's diverse population.

It is also worth noting that the revisions to the Preceptor Tax Credit program do not increase the overall cap on tax credits, ensuring that the program remains fiscally responsible while allowing for the expansion of eligible preceptors. The fact that the program has already awarded significant tax credits in 2024—over \$676,000—demonstrates the impact of this initiative and the need to make it accessible to a broader group of providers.

In conclusion, I strongly support SB1070 as a pediatrician, and I believe it will help strengthen our healthcare workforce and improve access to care for the people of Hawai'i. I urge you to consider the broader, positive impact that this bill will have on the education, equity, and accessibility of healthcare professionals across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brit Reis, MD  
Community Pediatrician

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference  
By**

**Katie Steinhelfer, APRN, CPNP, FNP-c, PMHNP-student (Pediatric Nurse  
Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner)**

**The Kahala Clinic for Children & Families**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of this measure**. By way of this measure, **Katie Steinhelfer** does not ask for new or expanded appropriations to the tax credit program.

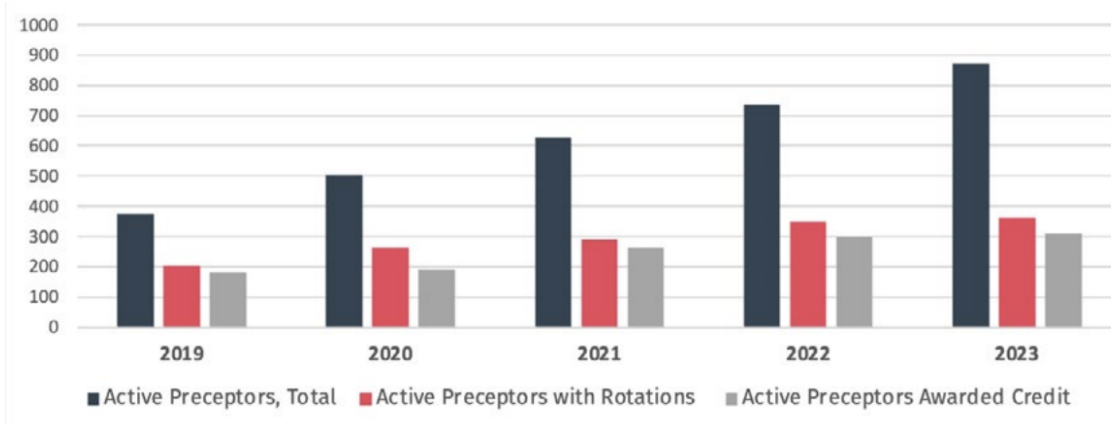
This measure, S.B. 1070, proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow a broader array of specialty providers who engage in teaching future primary care providers, clarify the definition of “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation” related to both time spent teaching students and what constitutes compensation for precepting, and amend the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to improve administration and roles. In addition, this measure increases access to the tax credit program by including all specialties who engage in precepting, and expand the professions to include physician assistants, social work, and registered dietitians. The proposed changes are in line with the recommendations in the five-year assessment of the Preceptor Tax Credit Program.

MAINTAIN	ADD	CHANGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep the process that local schools submit clinical rotation information;</li><li>• Keep the requirement that preceptors must self-verify their location, license information, specialty, and lack of existing compensation for precepting; and</li><li>• Keep, and clarify, the requirement that the tax credit is for non-compensated precepting activities only.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add additional healthcare provider professions with schools in Hawai‘i, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, registered dietitians, and physician assistants.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remove primary care specialty requirement for preceptors; and</li><li>• Remove requirement that only preceptor education for primary care students may be eligible for tax credits.</li></ul>

**TABLE I: RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY FROM THE PRECEPTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

In 2018, the Hawai‘i Legislature, in their great wisdom, enacted Act 43, which authorized and funded \$1.5 million in tax credits for advanced practice registered nurse, physician, and pharmacist professionals who train in-state students in their respective practice areas.

This program was intended to help alleviate the bottleneck within health education programs related to a shortage of clinical education sites and preceptors. The tax credit program has successfully grown the preceptor base over time (Figure 4). However, there is room to expand the program even with the positive growth.



**FIGURE 4: GROWTH IN PRECEPTORS, REGISTERED, WITH ROTATIONS AND RECEIVING TAX CREDITS**

**While the program is achieving the established goals, there is room to grow.**

As one of the two administering organizations of the Preceptor Tax Credit program and Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing has verified that Social Work, Physician Assistants, and Registered Dieticians have the same professional criteria that currently enables us to maintain a functioning program for APRNs, physicians, and pharmacists. These criteria include: 1) professionals maintaining licensure in Hawai'i; 2) in-state schools that maintain preceptor coordination; 3) preceptor education that occurs during education enrollment (as opposed to post-graduation activities); and 4) schools with national accreditation. These standards are used in the verification process to ensure eligibility of preceptors and participating academic programs, as defined in H.R.S. 235-110.45 and H.R.S. 321-2.7.

Further, based on the current performance and anticipated growth in the tax credit allocations by expanding the tax credits beyond primary care, funds remain. The Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee voted in favor of supporting other critically needed health professions by way of this program considering that there is a need, an ability to maintain the program's legally mandated verification requirements, and fiscal capacity.

**Katie Steinhelfer** respectfully asks the Committee to pass this measure through your committee. **Katie Steinhelfer** thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i and ensuring access to high-quality health care by supporting local healthcare education and training initiatives.

**SB-1070**

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 12:49:26 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/31/2025 1:34:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Lovett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DATE: 31 January 2025

TO: Joy A San Buenaventura, Henry JC Aquino

Hearing Date/time: 31 January 2025

Place: Honolulu, HI

RE: SB1070 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE PRECEPTORS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1070, which expands the definitions of preceptor to improve accessibility for providers to receive income tax credits, including removing “primary care” from the qualifying criteria. It also adds dietitians, physician assistants, and social workers to the list of preceptors and eligible students.

**I am submitting testimony in support of SB1070** because it will include physician assistants and physician assistant students in the Preceptor Tax Credit (PTC) program. This will create equitable opportunities for clinical education among physician assistant (PA) and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) students of Hawai‘i based academic institutions, and equity among PA and APRN preceptors who voluntarily supervise clinical training rotations; whereas currently only physicians and APRNs are eligible for the PTC. Additionally, the bill supports the clinical training requirements of PA, medical, and APNP students who must receive clinical training in a variety of clinical specialties as set by their respective national accreditation standards. Finally, this bill recognizes the importance of an interdisciplinary healthcare workforce by also including Social Workers and Dietitians and Social Work and Dietician students in the PTC.



I am a physician assistant in Hilo, Hawai'i. I have been practicing on the Big Island for over 11 years, after having the privilege of doing my pediatrics rotation in Hilo. Having the opportunity to rotate in both Hilo and Waikiki as a PA student changed my life. I studied in Arizona, but was able to make connections in Hawai'i which led to me moving here in 2013. As a pediatrics PA, I precepted 6-10 PA and APRN students per year. These days, I work in the Hilo emergency department, precepting 10-12 physician assistant students from MedEx in Kona and from mainland programs.

Moderinizing Hawai'i's laws to include physician assistants along with physicians and APRNs meets national standards and precedents. This is long overdue.

The bottom line is this bill will help increase patient's access to care. This will directly encourage both practicing physician assistants and students. It proves that the physician assistant profession is a valued team player in this state's critical shortage of healthcare providers.

Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous training modeled on medical school curriculum. PAs play a critical role on healthcare delivery teams, and along with their physician and APRN counterparts, help ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients.

It is important to note that the proposed revisions to the PTC will not result in an increase in the Preceptor Tax Credit. The current cap on the tax credit is 1.5 million dollars/tax year. The program as it stands, awarded \$676,000 in tax credits in 2024, with a cumulative \$2,657,000 tax credits issued to Hawai'i's currently eligible preceptors since the program started in 2019. By expanding eligibility to include additional healthcare providers, these excess funds can be allocated more effectively to support a broader range of preceptors and students. Expanding this program ensures that these resources are used to maximize their impact on healthcare education, equality, and access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important healthcare workforce issue. Let's improve the health of our islands together!

Aloha,  
Paige Lovett, PA-C



**LATE**

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 PM  
Conference Room 225 and videoconference  
By**

**Ms. BJ Bartleson, MS, RN, NEA-BC, FAONL**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on S.B. 1070**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of this measure.**

As a Hawai'i RN Health Policy Consultant and nurse leader, I strongly support this bill related to the successful Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit Program. Hawaii is one of only several states that have implemented this innovative program to increase the supply of healthcare providers, particularly in underserved or rural areas. It has established its goals and proven effective as a strong incentive for streamlining the healthcare education pipeline.

Since its inception through Act 43 in 2018, which authorized and funded \$1.5 million in tax credits for advanced practice registered nurses, physicians, and pharmacists, the program has seen a steady increase in active preceptors with rotations that are alleviating the bottleneck within health education programs related to a shortage of clinical education sites and preceptors. This bill does not ask for new or expanded appropriations; however, it proposes to clarify the definition of preceptor to allow for a broader array of specialty providers, clarifies the meaning of volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation, and provides amendments for the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to improve program administration and roles. The bill would increase the specialty to include physician assistants, social workers, and registered dietitians.

Thanks to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing and the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee for reviewing the current program performance and anticipated growth in tax credit allocations. They determined that available funding would support the proposed program's development. Again, this is another example of value-based policy, improving outcomes without increasing costs.

Hawai'i's innovation and collaboration across the state to improve the availability of cost-effective healthcare providers is laudable, and I strongly support SB 1070.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

BJ Bartleson, MS, RN, NEA-BC, FAONL  
Health Policy Consultant, BJB LLC  
Empowering RNs through Advocacy  
Bartlesonbj@gmail.com