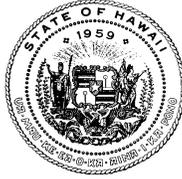


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A, M.P.H
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1591
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

February 11, 2026

Room 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of HB1591 but
- 3 recommends amendments to align this measure with HB2206, Relating to Health Care, since it
- 4 is more expansive.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540

FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 1591, Relating to Health Care

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Health

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2026
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding H.B. 1591 for your consideration.

H.B. 1591 amends section 235-110.25, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), regarding the Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit, by expanding the definition 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. It also adds physician assistants, social workers, and certain students of these professions, including those in residency and fellowship programs, as eligible preceptors.

Section 2 of the bill amends section 235-110.25(g), HRS, by:

- 1) Adding to the definition of “eligible professional degree or training certificate,” a degree or certificate that fulfills a requirement to be a “physician assistant pursuant to chapter 453” or a “social worker, pursuant to chapter 467E;”

- 2) Adding to the definition of “eligible student,” a “physician assistant student, or social work student, or resident who is enrolled in an eligible academic program, residency program, or fellowship;”
- 3) Expanding the definition of “nationally accredited,” to include various accreditation bodies, including those recognized by the Department of Health’s (DOH) Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee, and various commissions, consortiums, and committees for medical students, advanced practice registered nurse students, nursing residency programs, pharmacy students, pharmacy residency programs, physician assistant students, physician assistant residency programs, and social work students;
- 4) Adding a definition for “physician assistant student,” which incorporates the national certification and licensing requirements of a physician assistant by reference to section 453-5.3, HRS.
- 5) Removing “primary care” practice as a criterion to qualify as a preceptor, and providing minor language changes for clarify and consistency with other changes under this bill;
- 6) Adding a definition for “residency program;”
- 7) Adding a definition for “social work student;” and
- 8) Clarifying, under the definition of “volunteer-based supervised clinical training rotation,” that while a preceptor may be compensated for providing standard clinical services, they may not be compensated for clinical training services above or beyond clinical salary, or from tuition funds or state general funds, for the purposes of this tax credit.

Section 3 of the bill amends section 321-2.7, HRS, by clarifying that the DOH Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee will be composed of the DOH Director or their designee, and representatives of the Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center, the Center for Nursing, and the academic and residency programs with eligible students.

The bill is effective upon approval and applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025. DOTAX recommends that the effective date be amended to apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026, to allow sufficient time to make changes to forms and instructions and provide taxpayers with notice of the changes.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.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

and

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

and

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

and

Vassilis Syrmos, PhD
Interim Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

and

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 1591 – RELATING TO HEALTHCARE

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, 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 HB 1591 which amends the Preceptor Tax Credit program that allows for income tax incentives to health care providers who volunteer to provide clinical training for Hawaii's future health care workforce. The bill amends the Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit to remove language limiting access only to those practicing in primary care to include specialty fields of practice, and adds physician assistants, and social workers as eligible preceptors and students. Additionally, HB 1591 adds accredited residency and fellowship programs

that require preceptor support. The amendments would apply to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2026.

In 2017, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing identified a preceptor shortage. Preceptors are volunteer Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), physicians (MD and DO), 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 educational training path for a pharmacist, as well as the way clinical pharmacists practice, differs from nursing and medicine. The pharmacy student's training curriculum stresses foundation building in the first three years of a four-year curriculum. The final fourth year includes both primary care and specialty care pharmacy rotations. This training is based upon the profession's pharmacist role that combines 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. More advanced post-graduate training through accredited pharmacy residencies is also offered in clinical areas of practice. Preceptors are invaluable in providing training to pharmacy students and residents based on the complexity of their scope of practice and the evolving landscape of healthcare.

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



HB1591 Preceptor Tax Credits for Behavioral Health

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee, Vice Chair

Friday, Feb 6, 2026: 9:00: Room 329 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB1591:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services.

Hawai‘i’s behavioral health system faces persistent workforce shortages, and one of the most practical bottlenecks is **clinical training capacity**: students cannot become licensed without supervised hours, and providers often cannot afford to take on uncompensated teaching time. This bill addresses that barrier directly by recognizing behavioral health clinicians as eligible preceptors that would include behavioral health practitioners such as social workers and is expanded to include students.

Hawaii is facing a critical shortage of behavioral health professionals, including psychologists, counselors, social workers, and substance use specialists. These workforce gaps are especially severe in rural and underserved communities, where residents often experience long wait times or must travel far to receive care.

- Supporting students pursuing behavioral health degrees
- Reducing the financial burden of professional training
- Encouraging graduates to remain in Hawaii to serve local communities

The preceptor tax credit is a proven workforce tool

The Preceptor Tax Credit program was created to recruit and retain clinicians who provide supervised clinical training, using state income tax credits as an incentive. Expanding the eligibility rules will build upon successful outcomes already for primary care and it highlights the importance of incentives for expanding precepting capacity.

Preceptor tax credits modernizes the program to reflect Hawai‘i’s current needs by **adding behavioral health professions to the definition of “preceptor”**

and making them eligible for the credit and including behavioral health students as “eligible students,” expanding training pathways within Hawai‘i-based programs.

By expanding eligible preceptors in behavioral health:

- Increase the number of supervised clinical training placements available locally
- Improve retention by connecting students to Hawai‘i-based clinical sites and mentors
- Reduce waitlists and improve timely access to mental health and counseling services over time

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



**Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 329 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 H.B. 1591

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, 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 (HSCN) does not ask for new or expanded appropriations to the tax credit program.

This measure, H.B. 1591, 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 and social workers.

The Preceptor Tax Credit Assurance Committee Admin SubCommittee (Hawai'i State Center for Nursing and UH JABSOM Area Health Education Center) updated preceptor tax credit allocation projections based on a similar bill, HB303, as introduced in 2025. Based on the estimated student or resident enrollments and clinical rotation hours, we estimated a maximum of 1,623 hours to be recorded. Year after year, nearly 1 in 8 of all recorded rotations do not yield a tax credit due to too few hours taught by the preceptor. In addition, 4% of annual tax credits are allocated to people who teach far beyond 400 hours, who receive the maximum of 5 credits despite teaching considerably more credits. **In effect, the upper and lower thresholds for allocating tax credits results in a buffering of approximately 16%, which makes it unlikely for the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to allocate the maximum potential of tax credits in the near future.**

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.

	2026	2023 Distribution			
		Credits	Credit Amounts	Hours	Distribution
Max Potential	1623	1005			
Projected Allocation	1431	886			
5	589	365	5	400+	36%
4	123	76	4	320-399	8%
3	194	120	3	240-319	12%
2	291	180	2	160-239	18%
1	234	145	1	80-159	14%
0	192	119	0	below 80	12%

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

TABLE I: RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY FROM THE PRECEPTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.

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 (APRN), 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.

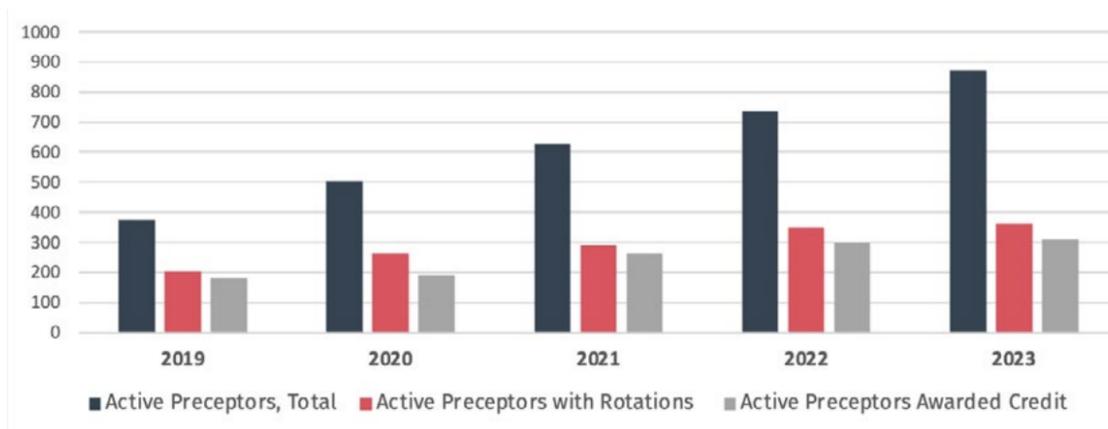


FIGURE 4: GROWTH IN PRECEPTORS, REGISTERED, WITH ROTATIONS AND RECEIVING TAX CREDITS

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 Workers and Physician Assistants 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 mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.



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 for Nursing is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.

Phone: 808-956-5211 | Address: 2528 McCarthy Mall, Web 402, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822 | Email: hscfn@hawaii.edu



HB1591 Assignment of Payments for Substance Abuse

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Feb 11, 2026: 09:00: Room 329 Videoconference

Hina Mauka Comments to Support HB1591:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Brian Baker. I am the President and CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.

Hawai'i's behavioral health workforce shortage is not just a recruitment issue—it is also a training capacity problem. Students in behavioral health programs cannot become licensed without supervised clinical hours, yet many qualified clinicians are unable to serve as preceptors because supervising students comes with no compensation. As a result, students face limited placement opportunities and delayed entry into the workforce.

This bill offers a practical solution by expanding the preceptor tax credit to include behavioral health professionals and students. By recognizing licensed behavioral health providers as eligible preceptors, the state can remove a key barrier to training the next generation of clinicians.

The need is urgent. Across Hawai'i, and especially in rural and underserved communities, residents face long wait times and limited access to mental health and substance use services. Expanding precepting capacity helps address these gaps by supporting students during training and encouraging them to build professional roots in Hawai'i.

The preceptor tax credit has already proven effective in primary care as a tool to grow and retain the workforce. Updating the program to reflect today's behavioral health needs builds on that success while strengthening in-state education and training pathways.

Expanding eligibility will increase supervised training opportunities, improve workforce retention, and over time, help reduce delays in accessing behavioral health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1591

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:17:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kari Wheeling	Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 7, 2026

To: Committee on Health
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kari Wheeling, APRN, FNP-BC. I serve as the Chief Clinical Officer for Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii and am writing to express my strong support for HB 1591, with additional comments for your consideration.

I have served as a clinical preceptor for several years and have supported many students pursuing healthcare degrees, including students enrolled in programs based both within and outside of Hawaii. I deeply appreciate the intent and value of the Hawaii Preceptor Tax Credit and find precepting to be one of the most rewarding aspects of my professional work.

As correctly stated in this bill, the need for qualified preceptors is significant. However, the demand for preceptors extends across all eligible academic programs nationwide, not only those physically based in Hawaii. Many Hawaii residents, for a variety of personal, financial, and logistical reasons, enroll in out-of-state or online accredited programs while maintaining their residence in Hawaii and completing their clinical training locally.

Under the current structure of the tax credit, eligibility is limited to students enrolled in Hawaii-based schools. This unintentionally creates a competitive environment between academic institutions and places Hawaii students attending out-of-state programs at a disadvantage. These students have chosen different educational pathways to meet the same professional and licensure requirements outlined in this bill, and their choice of school should not exclude their preceptors from eligibility for the tax credit.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to consider expanding eligibility for the preceptor tax credit to include all accredited academic and residency programs that require preceptor support, regardless of whether the program is based in Hawaii or out of state. In my own practice, I am frequently contacted by Hawaii-based students enrolled in programs such as Baylor University,

the University of Washington, and Bradley University who are seeking to fulfill their Family Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant clinical requirements here in Hawaii.

Although I am in strong support of HB 1591 as written, expanding eligibility beyond the physical location of the academic institution would more accurately reflect today's healthcare education landscape, increase preceptor participation, and better support Hawaii students who intend to live, train, and ultimately practice in our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony and for your consideration of HB 1591 and these suggested comments.

Respectfully,

Kari Wheeling, APRN, FNP-BC
Chief Clinical Officer
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii
245 N Kukui St, Ste 102A
Honolulu, HI 96817



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Greg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health

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

Date: February 11, 2026

Re: Support of HB1591 - Relating to Health Care

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 appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1591, which 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. In addition, the bill adds physician assistants and social workers to the list of preceptors and eligible students, and expands eligibility for the tax credit to include accredited residency programs that require preceptor support.

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. Preceptor tax credits are considered highly beneficial to healthcare by incentivizing professionals to train students, and aid in reducing critical workforce shortages, alleviating burnout, and increasing clinical placement opportunities. By providing financial offsets, the credits help sustain the pipeline for doctors, nurses, and other practitioners, particularly in rural or underserved areas.

Queen's alone has over 131 residents and fellows in our residency program supported by preceptors. We support the amended definitions 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 in support of 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.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME. Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit; Physician Assistants; Social Workers; Residency Programs; Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee; Director of Health

BILL NUMBER: HB 1591

INTRODUCED BY: SAYAMA, GARRETT, HOLT, ILAGAN, KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, KILA, KITAGAWA, KUSCH, LEE, M., LOWEN, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, MIYAKE, OLDS, POEPOE, TAKAYAMA, TARNAS

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 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 representatives of residency programs with eligible students to the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee. Applies to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2025.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 235-110.25, HRS, to define "eligible student" as an advanced practice registered nurse student, medical student, pharmacy student, physician assistant student, or social work student or resident who is enrolled in an eligible academic program, residency program, or fellowship.

Deletes the requirement that the preceptor be in primary care practice.

Amends section 321-2.7, HRS, to change the composition of the preceptor credit assurance committee.

Makes technical and conforming amendments to other definitions in the section and section 321-2.7, HRS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 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, dietitians, and social workers into the program and removing the current restriction to primary care, scales the program up and will have a revenue impact.

Re: HB 1591
Page 2

Digested: 2/7/2026



Hawaii Medical Association

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Date: February 11, 2026
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee
Christina Marzo MD and Robert Carlisle MD, Vice Chairs, HMA Public Policy Committee

RE HB 1591 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE: Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit; Licensed Dietitians; Physician Assistants; Social Workers; Residency Programs; Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee
Position: Support

This measure would amend the Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit to remove language limiting access only to those practicing in primary care, to add licensed dietitians, physician assistants, and social workers as eligible preceptors and students, and to include residency and fellowship programs; add the Director of Health and a representative of residency programs with eligible students to the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee; apply to taxable years beginning after 12/31/2026.

HMA supports this measure which will improve accessibility and further promote the education of health care professionals in Hawaii. Clinical preceptors are vital to the maintenance of solid education and experience for future physicians in Hawaii, as well as the recruitment to our state when training is complete. Additionally, the establishment of a Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee with the Director of Health and representatives of residency programs is necessary to develop processes for certification of a preceptor for the tax credit, as well as credit certification and review.

This preceptor measure will help sustain and grow Hawaii's physician workforce by supporting the essential educators who train our future clinicians. It is an investment in the future health of our communities so that patients have access to high-quality care close to home.

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.

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth A Ignacio, MD, Chair • Robert Carlisle, MD, Vice Chair • Christina Marzo, MD, Vice Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President • Jerald Garcia, MD, President Elect • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, • Immediate Past President
Laeton Pang, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine Area Health Education Center. Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project. Dec. 2025. University of Hawai'i Government Relations. https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2026/act18-sslh2009_2026_physician-workforce_annual-report_508.pdf Accessed Jan 25, 2026.

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2024 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

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Beth England, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

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

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1591
Relating to Health Care**

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 HB 1591 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 and social workers 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 enlarge 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.



February 11, 2026 at 9:00 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Chair Gregg Takayama
Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1591, Relating to Health Care

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 Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:00 AM
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

UPPORT FOR HB 1591, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) strongly supports HB 1591 which expands and clarifies definitions related to preceptors and supervised clinical training rotations. The measure also broadens eligibility for preceptors and trainees and enhances access to income tax credits for qualified providers who serve in preceptor roles. HPA is deeply concerned about Hawai'i's ongoing shortage of mental health providers and the resulting barriers to timely access to care across the state.

HPA supports this bill for the following reasons:

1. Addressing Health Workforce Shortages

Hawai'i faces significant shortages of health care providers, including behavioral health professionals, which impede access to timely and culturally responsive care. HB 1591 expands eligibility for income tax credits for providers who serve as preceptors, removes the limitation to "primary care," and includes additional disciplines such as social workers and physician assistants. These changes encourage broader participation by experienced clinicians and are particularly important for neighbor island and rural communities, where residents often experience prolonged wait times or are unable to access needed behavioral health services.

2. Strengthening Clinical Training Pathways

Limited availability of supervised clinical training opportunities is a major contributor to Hawai'i's mental health workforce shortage. Psychologists must complete extensive supervised experience, including practica, internships, and postdoctoral training. When incentives and supports for licensed psychologists to serve as preceptors are insufficient, the training pipeline narrows, reducing the number of new psychologists able to complete training and establish practice in Hawai'i. By expanding eligibility to include accredited residency programs requiring preceptor support and by adding representatives from residency programs and the Department of Health to the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee, HB 1591 strengthens the infrastructure supporting clinical education. These

improvements are essential to preparing future psychologists and allied behavioral health professionals to serve Hawai'i's diverse communities.

3. Promoting Retention of Trainees in Hawai'i

HB 1591 further supports workforce development by clarifying definitions related to preceptors and supervised clinical training and by broadening eligibility for tax credits. Removing unnecessary restrictions and strengthening incentives for preceptors increases the likelihood that trainees will complete their education and supervised experience within the state. This approach supports long-term workforce stability and improves access to care for Hawai'i residents.

4. Behavioral Health Integration

Although broadly framed within health care, the inclusion of behavioral health providers and the expanded definition of supervised clinical training are particularly relevant to behavioral health, where interdisciplinary and collaborative models of care are increasingly recognized as best practice.

In summary, HB 1591 will strengthen Hawai'i's mental health workforce by:

- Expanding access to supervised clinical training opportunities for psychology trainees;
- Encouraging licensed psychologists to serve as preceptors and supervisors;
- Supporting retention of trainees who complete their education and training in Hawai'i; and improving access to timely, high-quality mental and behavioral health care, particularly in underserved communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important bill.

Sincerely,



Alex Lichton, Ph.D.
Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee



Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health

HEARING: Wednesday February 11, 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room 329 State Capitol and via videoconference

SB3202 – Relating to Health Care

Chair Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for providing this opportunity to testify.

Hawai'i-American Nurses Association (Hawai'i- ANA) is the professional association for over 17,000 registered nurses who live and work in Hawai'i. Our mission is to advocate for the improvement of the healthcare system in the communities where we live and work. **We stand in strong support of this bill.**

The current tax credit program under Act 43 in 2018 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. The tax credit program has proven successful, and there is room to expand the program without new or expanded appropriations to the tax credit program. Rather, this measure proposes to clarify some definitions, to increase access to the tax credit program by including all specialties who engage in precepting, and to expand the professions to include physician assistants, social work, and registered dietitians.

Hawai'i-ANA respectfully asks the Committee to pass this measure supporting critically needed health professions engaged in the education of health care professionals considering that there is a need, an ability to maintain the program's legally mandated verification requirements, and fiscal capacity.

Hawai'i-ANA thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i in supporting local healthcare education and training initiatives. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.



Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

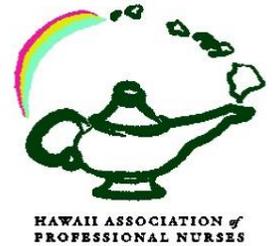
Chair of Advocacy Committee: Linda Beechinor, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

President: Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Executive Director: Elizabeth Kahakua, RN, BSN

phone (808) 779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, House Committee on Health (HLT)
From: Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)
RE: HB1591 — Relating to the Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit; Physician Assistants; Licensed Dietitians; Licensed Nutritionists; Licensed Social Workers
Position: **Strong Support**
Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN) submits testimony in **strong support** of HB1591. This bill addresses one of the most practical barriers to growing Hawai'i's healthcare workforce: clinical training capacity. Even when educational programs can recruit and enroll students, those students cannot progress into the workforce without clinical placements and experienced clinicians willing to serve as preceptors. In other words, preceptors are not optional—they are the infrastructure that turns education into a licensed, practicing workforce.

Preceptors are the bottleneck—and precepting carries real costs

Precepting requires significant time and effort: supervision, teaching, evaluation, and additional documentation—often layered on top of already demanding clinical workloads. In many settings, precepting also results in slower patient flow, lost productivity, and uncompensated labor. When the system relies solely on goodwill, it becomes increasingly difficult to sustain and expand training—especially during a shortage.

Expanding preceptor incentives recognizes that precepting has tangible costs and that supporting preceptors is one of the most direct, immediate ways to expand Hawai'i's workforce pipeline.

Why this is a patient access issue

From HAPN's perspective, preceptor support is ultimately about patient access. When Hawai'i cannot train enough clinicians locally—or cannot retain them after graduation—patients feel the effects through longer wait times, reduced continuity of care, and increased reliance on emergency or crisis services. This is particularly true in rural communities and neighbor islands, where even one vacancy can significantly affect access.

Incentivizing and expanding precepting helps:

- increase the number of available clinical placements,
- support the growth and stability of educational programs,
- strengthen recruitment and retention by building local training-to-workforce pathways,
- and reduce long-term shortages by increasing the number of clinicians trained and practicing in Hawai'i.

Workforce stability requires investment, not just expectations

Hawai'i competes nationally for health professionals. Strengthening incentives for clinicians who invest in training the next generation is a smart, workforce-forward

approach that builds long-term capacity rather than short-term workarounds. Measures like HB1591 help shift Hawai'i from reacting to shortages to building durable solutions.

For these reasons, HAPN respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB1591.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



Committee on Health

February 9, 2026

From: The Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA)

Re: SB3202 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

To: Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair and Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair

SUPPORT FOR HB1591 WITH CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT SUGGESTIONS

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on HB1591. We submit this testimony on behalf of our professional member organization, the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA). Our 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 alignment with our mission to grow the profession, HAA also provides support to student midwives.

In the State of Hawai'i, there are two advanced practice midwifery credentials: the Certified Nurse-Midwife (APNR, CNM), regulated for nearly 100 years and licensed for over 50 years, and the Certified Midwife (CM, LM), which was first regulated with a pathway to licensure in 2019. With the passage of Act 28 (2025), CM, LMs are now eligible for integration into Medicaid and are expected to be added as a provider type by the end of Q1 2026. As a result, employment opportunities for CM, LMs will become increasingly viable, and we anticipate that more Hawai'i-based students will pursue this advanced practice pathway.

Within our field, we are keenly aware of the challenges Hawai'i-based midwifery students face in securing clinical placements, as well as the significant commitment required of preceptors. Currently, there are forty-seven APRN, CNMs and one CM, LM serving families across the State. However, Hawai'i does not have an in-state pathway to a Master of Science in Midwifery. As a result, all Hawai'i-based advanced practice midwifery students must enroll in one of four remote or hybrid programs: Frontier Nursing University, Georgetown University, Thomas Jefferson University, or the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

As the professional organization representing advanced practice midwives in Hawai'i, HAA is regularly contacted by graduate-level student midwives seeking clinical placements within the State. HAA leadership actively engages with midwives practicing at Kaiser Permanente, Tripler Army Medical Center, and The Queen's Health Systems, as well as in private practices such as East Hawai'i Midwife Service, Hua Moon Women's Health, and 'Ōhi'a Midwifery & Wellness, to support retaining Hawai'i-based students for clinical training and eventual practice. A tax incentive for preceptors would meaningfully support these shared efforts to sustain and grow Hawai'i's midwifery workforce.

We appreciate the amendments that have been incorporated into this tax credit initiative. As of 2026, the majority of CNMs practicing in Hawai'i are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), serving communities across all islands and in a wide range of care settings. However, despite the inclusion of

APRNs in this bill, without accommodations for student midwives enrolled in remote academic programs, APRN, CNMs will remain effectively excluded from this incentive. Given that all Hawai‘i-based advanced practice midwifery students must train through remote or hybrid programs, this omission undermines efforts to grow our local workforce.

To support the development of a sustainable Hawai‘i-based provider workforce—and the preceptors who prepare them—we respectfully urge the Legislature to explicitly accommodate advanced practice midwifery within this initiative by amending HB1591 to:

- 1. Include the Certified Midwife (CM, LM) as a named provider, recognizing this credential as equivalent to the APRN, CNM. Certified Midwives are independent providers authorized to deliver comprehensive midwifery care, including serving as primary care providers for females from menarche through the end of life. They maintain full prescriptive authority, hold hospital admitting and discharging privileges, may serve as first assists, provide telehealth services, and possess global signature authority.**
- 2. Include Hawai‘i-based students enrolled in remote or hybrid academic programs - provided the majority of their clinical training occurs in Hawai‘i under Hawai‘i-based preceptors.**

Additionally, we note this is a social justice issue. HAA is committed to advancing equity in health professions education. At present, there is only one Kānaka Maoli CNM practicing in Hawai‘i. We hope that intentional workforce development policies will help cultivate greater representation of Native Hawaiian providers, as well as providers from the many Pacific Islander communities who call Hawai‘i home.

For the past few years, HAA has been involved with the Department of Health to amend the 1986 HAR for Licensing Freestanding Birthing Facilities. This revision is long overdue. Licensed Freestanding Birthing Facilities are an option for families throughout our region. In Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and California there are at least 30 licensed facilities available both for service and as training sites. Once the revision of the DOH rules for birth centers is accomplished, it is expected that there will be a number of potential training sites for our future advanced practice midwives. It is sound policy to provide an incentive via a preceptor tax credit for these facilities to participate with expanding Hawai‘i-based future providers.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony. We are available for further comment or clarification via email.

Sincerely,

The Hawai‘i Affiliate of ACNM Board

Annette Manant, PhD, ARPN, CNM President

Alex Brito, CNM, WHNP, RN-BSN Vice President

Connie Conover, CNM, MSN Treasurer

Margaret Ragen Affiliate Legislative Contact

acnmhawaiiaffiliate@gmail.com

<https://hawaiimidwives.org/>

For your reference, APRN, CNMs and CM, LMs currently practice at the following locations:

<https://hawaiimidwives.org/find-a-midwife-1>

KAUA‘I

- Hua Moon Women’s Health
- Kaua‘i Women’s Health Center

O‘AHU

- Kalihi Palama Health Center
- Kaiser Permanente
- Kōkua Kalihi Valley
- Ko‘olau Women’s Healthcare
- Tripler Diagnostic Center and Tripler Army Medical Center
- University of Hawai‘i

MOLOKA‘I

- Women’s Health Center at The Queen’s Health Systems

MAUI

- Kaiser Permanente
- Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center
- Maui Midwifery
- Pregnancy & Wellness Maui
- University of Hawai‘i

HAWAI‘I ISLAND

- East Hawai‘i Midwife Service
- Hāmākua-Kohala Health Center
- Hawai‘i Island Community Health Clinic
- Kaiser Permanente
- ‘Ōhi‘a Midwifery & Wellness
- Women’s Center at The Queen’s Health Systems

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Head of Government Relations

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

February 11, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference

Re: HB 1591, Relating to the Healthcare Education Loan Repayment Program.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1591, which expands the Healthcare Preceptor Tax Credit to incentivize additional preceptors to offer professional instruction, training, and supervision to students and residents seeking careers as health care providers.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS HB 1591.

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 4,600 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 HB 1591 because it will help to increase access to in-state clinical experiences for students training to enter the medical field and draw more prospective medical professionals to stay home or to come to Hawai‘i.

Over the years, our preceptors supported several hundreds of individual rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, geriatrics, continuing care, and sports medicine. In addition, our preceptors supported over 100 rotations throughout inpatient nursing.

Since the enactment of Act 43, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2018, fewer advanced practiced registered nurses, physicians and pharmacists are eligible for the tax credit than the number that are teaching our local students. Expanding the eligibility to include a broader range of healthcare providers will help incentivize more professionals to serve as preceptors and enhance medical education in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



HIPHI Board

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For Children in Hawai'i

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Hawaiian Research Office

Danette Wong Tomiyasu, MBA
Retired, Hawai'i State Department of
Health

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 9, 2026

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

RE: Support for HB 1591, Relating to Health Care

Hrg: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute,¹ **supports HB 1591** relating to health care. This bill improves the accessibility of income tax credits for health care providers who serve as preceptors.

A Chronic Health Care Provider Shortage

Hawai'i continues to experience a significant shortage of health care professionals, especially in primary care and rural areas. According to the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine's most recent Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment report, of 12,688 licensed physicians in the state, less than a third provide patient care. This leaves the state 644 doctors short of the need for providers, a number that grows to 833 full-time physicians when geography is factored in.²

Hawai'i County had the biggest shortage according to the report, needing 224 doctors to fill its demand gap. That means its supply of physicians needs to grow by 43% to meet demand. Maui would need to grow its provider base by over 35% to meet demand, with other neighbor islands facing similar gaps. Long wait times, decreased preventive care, and additional strain on emergency services are among the challenges caused by these workforce shortages.

A Proven Solution

The preceptor tax credit has a documented record of success in addressing this pipeline issue. Hawai'i's existing preceptor tax credit provides up to \$1,000 per clinical rotation supervised and up to \$5,000 per year. It was enacted to encourage clinicians to serve as preceptors for students and residents. When originally evaluated over several years, the program was associated with a 77% increase in active preceptors and

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² [Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project](#), University of Hawai'i's John A. Burns School of Medicine, December 2025.



brought over 76 new providers into precepting roles, expanding training opportunities for aspiring health professionals in critical fields.³

A Necessary Expansion

By expanding the pool of eligible preceptor professions and broadening the types of eligible training programs the credit covers, this proposal will help grow the number of clinical training sites and mentors available to serve Hawai'i's health care workforce pipeline. More preceptors means greater opportunities for students to complete clinical rotations, increasing the number of local graduates who stay and practice in Hawai'i, a key strategy to addressing shortages in physician, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health professions statewide.

Notably, this measure also extends the preceptor credit to social workers. According to a report from UH's Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, demand for health care social workers in Hawai'i will increase by more than 18%, and the need for mental health and substance abuse social workers is estimated to increase by roughly 22% over the next 10 years.⁴

In addition to increasing access to training, stronger preceptor incentives help reduce costs and turnover associated with workforce shortages. Such credits also enhance care quality through hands-on mentorship in underserved communities. Neighbor island and rural areas will especially benefit from the credit's expansion, since they are most heavily affected by provider scarcity.

As demand for health care continues to grow, strengthening the workforce pipeline is essential to reinforcing public health. We urge your committee to support this measure to uplift access to health care services for our island home.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Coffield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Policy and Advocacy Associate

³ [Evaluation of Hawai'i Preceptor Tax Credit: Five Year Program Evaluation 2019-2023](#), prepared for the Hawai'i Department of Health, 2024.

⁴ ["Hawai'i's demand for social workers will climb over the next decade, report says"](#), Hawai'i Public Radio, March 30, 2023.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 11, 2025; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1591, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, 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** House Bill No. 1591, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would improve accessibility and further promote education of health care professionals by:

- (1) Removing language from the Healthcare Preceptor Tax Law to limit access solely those in primary care;
- (2) Adding physician assistants and social workers as acceptable preceptors and students;
and
- (3) Expanding eligibility to residency and fellowship programs.

The bill would also revise the membership of the Preceptor Credit Assurance Committee to include the Director of Health and representatives of residency programs with eligible students, take effect upon its approval, and apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1591

Wednesday, February 11, 2026; 9:00 a.m.

Page 2

We note that a substantively similar measure, Senate Bill No. 3202, was scheduled to be heard by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on February 9, 2026, at 1:05 p.m. The main difference between Senate Bill No. 3202 and this bill, is that the Senate Bill includes dietitians as acceptable preceptors and students.

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 clarify and expand 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 future 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.

Aloha, Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, House Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1591.

I am Miki Miura, a family nurse practitioner, and I strongly support HB1591. As a former nurse practitioner student and a current enthusiastic preceptor for nurse practitioner students, I cannot overstate the importance of preceptors in developing capable future clinicians. Healthcare is complex to learn, and preceptors help students apply their textbook and lecture knowledge in real-world settings. Many nurse practitioners are interested in teaching students, but also feel pressure to be productive and see many patients, as their employers expect them to generate enough revenue to sustain their practices. I empathize with colleagues who were discouraged from participating in preceptorship, as I know firsthand that teaching students while running a busy clinic is a time- and energy-intensive responsibility. This preceptor tax credit can incentivize nurse practitioners to serve as preceptors and help to show appreciation for preceptors' contributions to the community. Furthermore, the tax credit should be expanded to include non-primary-care clinicians and residency and fellowship programs, as proposed in this bill. There is a critical need for competent clinicians across diverse settings. Please support this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Miki Miura, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

HB-1591

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:00:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1591

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:38:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Haumea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: House Committee on Health

RE: HB 1591 – Relating to Health Care Preceptors

POSITION: Support with Amendments

Aloha Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Stacy Haumea** and I am a **Registered Dietitian Nutritionist** practicing in East Hawai'i for 30 years. I am writing to express my **strong support for HB 1591**, with a humble request to explicitly include **Registered Dietitians** as eligible preceptors under this measure.

As the **Hawaii Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (HAND)** seeks to bolster the local healthcare workforce, we face a significant bottleneck: a critical shortage of supervised practice preceptors. HB 1591 offers a solution to this crisis by:

- **Reducing the Financial Burden:** Providing a tax credit recognizes the significant time and professional resources experienced Registered Dietitians invest in training the next generation.
- **Preventing "Brain Drain":** Without enough local preceptors, Hawaii students are often forced to move to the mainland to complete their clinical rotations. Many do not return, worsening our local provider shortage.
- **Expanding Access to Care:** Increasing the number of dietetic interns in Hawaii directly translates to more hands-on nutritional support for our communities today and a more robust workforce for tomorrow.

I urge you to include Registered Dietitians in the list of eligible providers for this preceptor tax credit. This amendment will have a lasting impact on the sustainability of nutrition services across our islands.

Mahalo for your support of Hawaii's healthcare future.

Warmest aloha, Stacy Haumea

LATE

TO: House Committee on Health

RE: HB 1591 – Relating to Health Care Preceptors

POSITION: Support with Amendments

Aloha Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nicole Sievers and I am a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator practicing on Kauai for the past 16 years. I am writing to express my **strong support for HB 1591**, with a humble request to explicitly **include Registered Dietitians (RDs) as eligible preceptors under this measure.**

As the Hawai'i Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (HAND) seeks to bolster the local healthcare workforce, we face a significant bottleneck: a critical shortage of supervised practice preceptors.

I personally served as a preceptor for nearly a dozen Hawaii based dietetic interns in my previous role at Wilcox Medical Center over the past decade because I had the privilege of my time being paid for. I believe deeply in the need to train the next generation of nutrition professionals to meet the needs of our community. I stopped offering this opportunity when I went into private practice for the unfortunately real reason that time is money.

HB 1591 offers a solution to this crisis by:

- **Reducing the Financial Burden:** Providing a tax credit recognizes the significant time and professional resources experienced RDs invest in training the next generation. This would be an incentive for providers like me, and would have little impact on state revenue as the average dietetic intern population in Hawai'i is typically less than a dozen or so.
- **Preventing "Brain Drain":** Without enough local preceptors, Hawaii students are often forced to move to the mainland to complete their clinical rotations. Many do not return, worsening our local provider shortage. And at least 3 of the interns I trained who were originally from the mainland decided to stay and practice in Hawai'i; an added bonus!
- **Expanding Access to Care:** Increasing the number of dietetic interns in Hawai'i directly translates to more hands-on nutritional support for our communities today and a more robust workforce for tomorrow.

I urge you to include Registered Dietitians in the list of eligible providers for this preceptor tax credit. **We are already included in the list of eligible providers in SB3202 and HB303.** This small amendment will have a lasting impact on the sustainability of nutrition services across our islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your support of Hawaii's healthcare future.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sievers, RDN CDCES

Nutrition Services Payment Specialist, Hawai'i Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (HAND), <https://eatrighthawaii.org/>

Private Practice, Hawai'i Nutrition Hui, www.HawaiiNutritionHui.com

Kapa'a, HI

(808) 645-4484 ext. 1