



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea Street, #402, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

April 2, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **HCR 173 -- Relating to Medical Residency Program on Maui**

HEARING: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 @ 10:00 am; Conference Room 308

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

HCR 173 urges Maui Health to work with key partners including JABSOM to create a full-time medical residency program on Maui. It could help Maui train and keep more doctors locally, given the serious primary care physician shortage there, which in turn is essential to improving access to care on the island over time. We believe this expansion of medical residency training could initially be funded using Rural Health Transformation funding. Over time, such a residency program will generate far more value than its cost because the residents in training will also provide a significant amount of health care during their residencies. The cost of building such a program relates mainly to funding the faculty needed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

- -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



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 Finance
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

By

T. Samuel Shomaker, Dean

and

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD,

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Chief Academic Officer

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

Vassilis Syrmos, PhD

Interim Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 173/HR 163 – URGING MAUI HEALTH TO COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO ESTABLISH A FULL-TIME MEDICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) **supports HCR 173/HR 163** which urges collaboration between Maui Health, the administrators of the Hawai'i Rural Health Transformation Plan, the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and other stakeholders to establish a full-time medical residency program on the island of Maui. JABSOM recognizes the great need as well as benefits of expanding residency training to the neighbor islands and especially Maui.

Hawai'i is experiencing an alarming shortage of physicians. The shortage impacts the neighbor islands disproportionately, with Maui facing a critical overall physician shortage of forty-one percent, representing a deficit of approximately one hundred seventy-nine full-time equivalent physicians according to the 2025 Physician Workforce Assessment. Primary care, internal medicine, and some specialty physician shortages represent the greatest area of need. This shortage, along with shortages in other health processes, greatly impairs access to care, and may result in more poorly controlled chronic diseases. JABSOM has shown that eighty per cent of graduates who complete their medical school and residency training, also known as graduate medical education, in the State remain in Hawai'i to practice.

There are considerable public benefits and positive outcomes achieved by expanding capacity for training medical students especially on the neighbor islands with the goal of having these students ultimately remain in Hawai'i to practice. Collaboration between public and private entities has demonstrated success on Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island. Through a similar collaborative effort, a medical residency program may be established on Maui. JABSOM has been working with Maui Health and other Maui-based stakeholders for more than a year to achieve the necessary infrastructure, policies, and processes so that they can be successful in achieving a medical residency program in a primary care specialty.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.