



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

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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April 14, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, 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: Friday, April 17, 2026 @ 1:00 pm; Conference Room 225

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 as the Rural Health Transformation fund may not adequately support this. SHPDA will fight for State funding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

HCR-173

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 12:58:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/17/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Llasmin Chaine	Testifying for Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	In Person

Comments:

The Commission supports HCR173, as strengthening the medical workforce in Maui is needed given not only the primary care shortages, but the fragility of the county's pregnancy care infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration and support.



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, April 17, 2026 at 1:00 p.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 – URGING MAUI HEALTH TO COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO ESTABLISH A FULL-TIME MEDICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI

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

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) **supports HCR 173** 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.



Hawaii Medical Association

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Date: April 17, 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 HCR 173 SCR 27 URGING MAUI HEALTH TO COLLABORATE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO ESTABLISH A FULL-TIME MEDICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI. OF THE STATE. Maui; Maui Health; Medical Residency; Report

Position: Support

This resolution urges that Maui Health collaborate with the administrators of the Hawaii 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.

Hawaii continues to face a significant physician workforce shortage, particularly on neighbor islands where access to specialty and continuity of care remains limited. Expanding graduate medical education in underserved areas is one of the most effective, evidence-based strategies to improve long-term physician recruitment and retention. Residency training programs are strongly associated with physicians remaining in the communities where they train, making this a critical investment in Maui's healthcare infrastructure and workforce stability. Additionally, a Maui-based residency program would enhance care coordination, support physician-led team-based care, and improve access to timely, high-quality services for local patients.

HMA supports this resolution and is grateful to our Hawaii lawmakers for their continued efforts to build a sustainable, locally trained physician workforce and improve health equity across the islands. Strengthening training pathways on Maui will help ensure that patients have reliable access to care close to home.

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

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.

Hay, Jeremy. "Need A Doctor? Hawai'i's Physician Shortage Keeps Getting Worse." *Honolulu Civil Beat*, 8 Jan. 2026, www.civilbeat.org/2026/01/hawaii-physician-shortage-getting-worse/. Accessed Jan 25, 2026.

Yip C. Hawaii faces shortage of 800 physicians, with neighbor islands hit hardest. KITV.com. [May 20 2024](http://KITV.com).

Lu A. Factors Exacerbating the Physician Shortage in Hawaii: What is Hawaii Doing to Stem the Tide? Brown University School of Public Health. [April 3 2024](http://Brown University School of Public Health).