



HILO MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chair, Senator David Y. Ige
Vice Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Members of the Ways & Means Committee

Hearing
March 28, 2012

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 2368, relating to appropriation of funds for the
Medical Residency Program**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation that will assist rural communities of the State of Hawaii to address its critical shortage of medical doctors.

I represent the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees (Foundation). The mission of the Foundation is *“to support the Hilo Medical Center with projects that benefit the greater community”*.

The Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board of Trustees, support HB 2368, relating to the appropriation of funds for the (Hilo) Medical Residency Program and would **recommend that at the \$300,000 (funds) be a line item in the Hilo Medical Center Budget**, rather than the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

The Foundation and the Hawaii Island Community has supported the Hilo Medical Residency Program financially, and with countless volunteer hours. The critical issue of the lack of physicians and supporting medical personnel in rural area is a long-standing issue since the decline of the sugar industry. The Foundation’s plea for assistance with funding to establishing the Hilo Medical Residence Program is not based on a study, it comes from hearing heart wrenching stories from individuals in our community who have not been able to secure a primary physician.

Hilo Medical Center has taken on the challenge and responsibility to get this Hilo Medical Residency Program accredited, and the Foundation supports that effort. State funding of the Hilo Medical Residency Program is critically needed now to ensure the program is sustained through its accreditation process, which will take almost two years.

Rural communities need more doctors and the Hilo Medical Residence Program is one way to introduce and encourage medical residents to ultimately practice medicine in Hilo, or in rural communities throughout Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2368.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: marier350@hhsc.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2368 on 3/28/2012 9:30:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:41:52 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:30:00 AM HB2368

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marie Ruhland
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Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:
Please support this HB

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:11:18 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/28/2012 9:30:00 AM HB2368

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Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Phoebe M. Lambeth
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Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chair. Senator David Y. Ige
Vice Chair Senator Michelle K. Kidani
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March 28, 2012

Testimony Supporting House Bill 2368, relating to appropriation of funds for the Medical Residency Program at University of Hawaii, Hilo, for fiscal year 2012-2013 under program ID UOH 210.

My name is Phoebe Lambeth, a Trustee on the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board.. The mission of the Foundation is "to support the Hilo Medical Center with projects that benefit the greater community". I appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in strong support of HB 2368 which authorizes appropriation of funds for the (Hilo) Medical Residency Program at University of Hawaii, Hilo, for fiscal year 2012-2013.

It is imperative that the State fund the Hilo Medical Residency Program now to ensure the program is sustained through its accreditation process, which will take approximately two years. The Program will require \$400,000 per year in order to sustain ongoing operations. We are hopeful that medical residents who participate in the Hilo Medical Residency Program will be enriched further through their residency experience and ultimately want to practice medicine in Hilo, or in other rural communities throughout Hawaii.

The Foundation and the Hawaii Island Community has supported the Hilo Medical Residency Program financially, and with countless volunteer hours. The critical issue of the lack of physicians and supporting medical personnel in rural areas is a long standing issue as our practicing physicians get closer to retirement. The Hilo Medical Residency Program will be a benefit to the Hawaii Island and many other rural communities. Hilo Medical Center has taken on the challenge and responsibility to get this Hilo Medical Residency Program accredited, and the Foundation supports that effort.

We, the Hilo Medical Center Foundation Board, support HB 2368, relating to the appropriation of funds for the (Hilo) Medical Residency Program and would recommend that those funds be directed to the Hilo Medical Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2368.

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Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: steve godzsak
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Comments:

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We are well aware of doctors being needed in the rural areas of Hawaii and that we must compete with the mainland to recruit. Also, most of our doctors (especially primary care) are at capacity and not accepting new patients. We ran into that very situation 6 years ago after arriving from the mainland. This situation hasn't improved. The establishment of a residency program here in Hilo was chosen to alleviate this problem and there is a path forward. However, it will require funding. The community has been supporting this effort and I'm sure will continue to do so. It's time for the state to truly recognize their role in supporting this endeavor. I hope you will recognize how beneficial this program is and will be to the future of rural Hawaii. I urge you to support SB2368. Thank you.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of SB2368. The lack of doctors in our rural communities has never been more severe. Reports suggest this shortage will grow threatening the overall health of island residents. One solution is the establishment of the Hilo Medical Residency Program which will benefit all Hawaii. This program requires funding to sustain it through its accreditation process. The community has supported this program during the past few years as it established itself and will no doubt continue to do so as the program gains accreditation. I hope the state recognizes how critical the needs are in the rural areas and will provide monetary support through SB2368. Thank you.