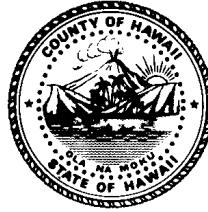


Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
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March 10, 2020

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Dear Chairs Mizuno and Woodson, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2983, SD1 Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

The shortage of health care providers in Hawai'i has been well documented. By all accounts, it is getting worse, and is of major concern. It appears that a program of loan repayment is currently in operation and is working to attract providers to federally designated health professional shortage areas, and to geographic areas of Hawai'i found to be underserved.

A year ago, I was pleased to support SB 1404, which became Act 262. Earlier this session, your Committees and the full House passed HB 2254, substantially similar to today's bill. Unless there is a flaw in the program of which I am unaware, I hope that your Committee will continue to recognize the importance of this issue, see the value of the repayment program, and act favorably on SB 2983, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR