

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 14, 2019

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 1404, SD2 Relating to Loan Repayment for Health Care Professionals

The shortage of health care providers in Hawai'i has been well documented, by all accounts 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.

Unless there is a flaw in the program of which I am unaware, I hope that your Committee will recognize the importance of this issue, see the value of the repayment program, and act favorably on SB 1404, SD2. I would also hope that you consider incorporating such funding in your priority list of add-ons for the State budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR