

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 27, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 1404, SD2, HD1 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.

The House Committee on Lower and Higher Education seems to have narrowed the scope of SB 1404 substantially. 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 something closer to SB 1404, SD2, while incorporating amendatory language proposed by JABSOM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR