

**Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)**  
Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i & City & County of Honolulu

February 2, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MEL RAPOZO**  
**PRESIDENT, HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**  
**ON**  
**SB 406, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**  
**PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM**  
Committee on Health  
Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Green and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 406, relating to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as President of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC).

SB 406 is part of the 2015 HSAC Legislative Package and provides funding in the amount of \$2,800,000 for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program. Although this program will be based in Hilo, physicians will be trained to provide medical assistance to critical rural underserved areas across the State.

Access to health care is a significant issue in Hawai'i, especially for residents living in rural areas. Recognizing the shortage of healthcare providers, particularly in primary care, the Hilo Medical Center in partnership with the Hawai'i Health System Corporation developed a Primary Care Training Program to address this shortage and improve access to healthcare for the residents of the State of Hawai'i. This may also encourage physicians to continue their practice here in our islands.

For the reasons stated above, HSAC is in strong support of SB 406 and asks for your favorable support. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



MEL RAPOZO  
President, HSAC

AB:mn

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David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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February 2, 2015

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Michael P. Victorino, Treasurer   
Hawaii State Association of Counties

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2015; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB406, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
PRIMARY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation primary care training program at the Hilo Medical Center.

I am aware the president of the Hawaii State Association of Counties has submitted testimony on behalf of HSAC, in support of this measure, which is in the HSAC Legislative Package. As the treasurer of HSAC, I concur with the testimony submitted by the president, and urge you to support this measure.

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