

Good news,

Senate Ways and Means has passed SB2542 today. Thank you all for the outstanding level of testimony with 58 pages for the WAM hearing and another 45 pages for CPH. Especial thanks to Michael Ching, Gerald Garcia, Christopher Regala, Michael Mann, Lauris Wade, Maria Ver, Craig Thomas, Katherine Heizen Jim, the entire Hawaii East IPA, the HMA Officers, the Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology, Hawaii Nurse's Association, Hawaii Public Health Institute, Jeannie Botacion, Dawn Sparks, Keola Adams, Jerris Hedges Dean of John A Burns School of Medicine, Steven Smith, Edward Gutteling, Lisa Ignacio, Kelley Withy, Cynthia Goto, Michelle Mitchell, Joey Kohatsu, William Wong, William Scruggs, Timothy Jahraus, Jester Galiza, Michael Wilkerson, Cathy Wilson, Karen Osorio, Joe Borer, Bryan Mih, Kyle Stevens, and Michael Jaffe.

The Task Force continues to work with closely with Dr. Ignacio and the HMA and our APRN colleagues in passing this bill.

Next steps:

Our Task Force has vetted the Honolulu Star Advertiser commentary which will be submitted by Lisa Rantz, President of the Hawaii Rural Health Association, Celeste Baldwin, APRN, PhD who practices on Maui, and Dr. Stephen Smith of the Task Force.

Governor Ige has contacted Dr. Wade and arranged a meeting at his office to discuss this bill on Feb 25. Lt Governor Josh Green has been appraised and offered to help support passage.

We still would benefit from a supportive statement from the Kauai and Maui Mayors in support if possible.

The United Public Workers Union has filed testimony in support. Dr. Wade has written Hawaii's other unions also requesting their support.

The GET bills need to be heard by House Finance Committee. Several of us have written Chair Sylvia Luke and Dr. Wade has met with her. Please consider reaching out to Rep. Luke on this legislation.

Educating the public would be quite helpful. If you know of patient advocacy groups or if you have patients paying the GET tax on their health care encourage them to write letters to the editor.

Please share other initiatives or ideas on how to best proceed.