



Hawai'i Rural Health Program: Shaping the Next Generation of Rural Doctors

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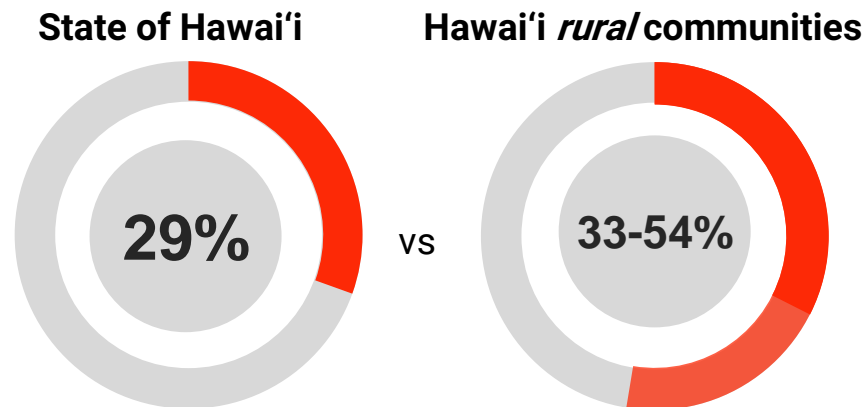
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Introduction: Physician Shortage

Physician Shortage



Literature suggests that ...

- Health care workers from rural communities tend practice in rural communities.
- **Rural medical training may help improve recruitment to rural communities.**



Hawai'i Rural Health Program (HRHP)

- **Created in 2011**
- Provide first-year medical students opportunity to experience rural health care
- **Two-groups of 6 students to rural Hawai'i Island for a 12-week block**
- **Same educational opportunities** of PBL and clinical shadowing
- **Local physician PBL tutors**, shadowing opportunities, local health events, mentoring to elementary and high school students, and **enjoying living in the community itself!**
- Cost of living and transportation covered

OBJECTIVE: To describe JABSOM's HRHP and share the insights from students who completed the program.



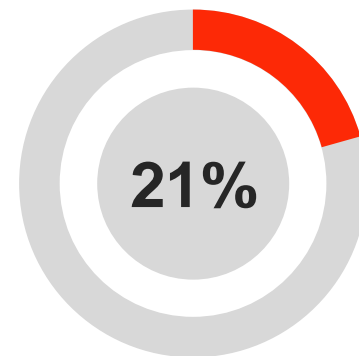
Methods

- **Final exam grade from 2015-2019** of HRHP and non-HRHP students were compared to assess for effects on academic performance.
- **Surveys** given at the end of the 12-week blocks were reviewed.
- Additionally, we looked at the **post-residency practicing locations of both HRHP and non-HRHP JABSOM students**

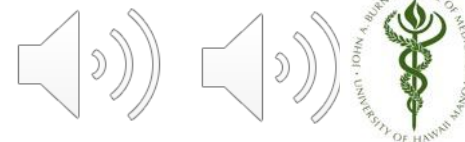


Results

- **Six of the 29 HRHP students who have completed residency (21%) are working in rural communities.**
 - **Five are working Hawai'i, one in rural California.**
- **No significant differences between the end-course exam scores for HRHP students vs. non-HRHP students**



**HRHP students practicing in
rural/Hawai'i communities**



Results

- Reflections collected from **10 students of the 2019 cohort**
- Themes highlighted included **community involvement, mentorship, empathy, and advocacy**



“Hawai’i Island left us overflowing with memories of its natural beauty, its devoted physicians, and treasured time shared together as classmates. The experience showed us how vital local physicians are to a rural community. ”
- excerpt from a student reflection



Discussion

- **21% of HRHP graduates are practicing in rural communities**
 - Compared with **11% of total JABSOM graduates** and **11% of national med students**
- **Academic performance is comparable**
- Student reflections illustrate **value beyond statistics**



Limitations

- Students **from** rural areas may be more likely to sign up for HRHP program
- Surveys were distributed to **only one year** of HRHP students, so not all cohorts are represented
- Most HRHP students have **not yet completed residency training**



Conclusion

- **HRHP's success can help address physician shortages** in other geographic regions and other health care training programs



Excerpt Reading

“As a graduate of a public high school on Hawai‘i Island myself, I never thought that becoming a physician was an option for me due to lack of exposure to the field of medicine growing up. However, programs like HRHP help to inspire young learners to pursue higher-level education and one day return to work in their communities. I know this to be true because I attended an HRHP event back in 2017 when I was a student at UH Hilo, and here I am now helping to conduct the same workshop in 2019 as a medical student!”

- excerpt from a student reflection





Mahalo!

Questions?

