

## HEDtestimony

---

**From:** Judith Clark [jfclark@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2008 5:54 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony HR101/HCR119

Bill: HR101/HCR119 Urging the University of Hawaii to begin rebuilding the School of Public Health by 2012  
Committee: Higher Education  
Chair: Rep. Chang  
Date/time: 33/11/08, 2:15 pm

Judith F. Clark  
[jfclark@hotmail.com](mailto:jfclark@hotmail.com)  
808-499-9966  
48-218 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, HI 96744  
\*\*\*\*\*  
March 10, 2008

To: Representative Jerry Chang, Chair  
Committee on Higher Education

**Testimony in Support of HR 101 and HCR 119**  
**Urging the University of Hawaii to Begin Rebuilding**  
**the School of Public Health by 2012**

As a graduate of the University of Hawaii School of Public Health and executive director of a health and human services non-profit organization, I strongly support efforts to re-establish the School of Public Health.

Hawaii needs a pool of qualified public health workers to address many serious issues such as maternal and child health, smoking prevention, sexually transmitted infections and environmental health concerns. About 40% of our current public health workers are close to retirement so we need to train the next generation of public health workers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH

---

Connect and share in new ways with Windows Live. [Get it now!](#)

Testimony by  
Jay Maddock, Ph.D.  
Director and Associate Professor  
Office of Public Health Studies  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
March 11, 2008

Honorable Chair Person Chang and Higher Education Committee Members:

I am the Director of the Office of Public Health Studies testifying as an individual in favor of **HR 101**, Urging the University of Hawai'i to Rebuild the School of Public Health by 2012. My statement on this resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawai'i.

The School of Public Health at the University of Hawai'i was closed in 1999 and reorganized into the Office of Public Health Studies. As an Office, we have been very successful in providing excellence in public health education and research. In 2007, we were awarded seven years of accreditation of our graduate programs by the Council on Education in Public Health, the longest possible. We currently offer training in epidemiology and the social and behavioral health sciences. We will begin offering the Doctorate in Public Health again starting in the fall of 2008. Despite our success as a small program, the lack of a School of Public Health in Hawai'i puts us at grave risk. In almost 10 years, we have not graduated any students in environmental health, health services, health policy and biostatistics. With an aging workforce, the Department of Health will soon be facing numerous vacancies that they are unable to fill with qualified people. The public health threat to Hawai'i is real. Pandemic influenza, SARS, bioterrorism, childhood obesity, the aging population and climate change are all real and present dangers. Faculty from a School of Public Health could inform us about the safety of the sand after the sewage spill in Waikiki or the effects of pharmaceuticals in our water supply.

The Office of Public Health Studies has recently completed a business plan that outlines what it would take to rebuild the School of Public Health. We estimate that the School of Public Health would require about \$4 million annually to operate. This funding would result in 350 newly trained public health workers and an estimated \$45 million in extramural grants. The value of the protection of the people of Hawai'i is of course incalculable.

Your support of this resolution will help us on our path, supporting the expansion of public health education and research in Hawai'i and beginning to stem the public health workforce crisis that faces the state.