

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Wednesday, February 6, 2008  
1:15 p.m.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2590, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE IN RURAL  
COMMUNITIES.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,  
TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

The Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") thanks you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. No. 2590, which requires all graduates from the University of Hawaii school of medicine to work two years in a rural community in the State. The Board opposes this bill.

While sympathetic to the needs of the rural community, the Board believes that mandating service through the licensing law is inappropriate. The purpose of regulation is to protect the public. As such, requiring graduates to work two years in a rural community does not fit within this regulatory mission.

It is also the Board's belief that this requirement may be a burden to those physicians who do not necessarily need to practice in a certain area in order to offer their services. Pathologists are one example.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2590  
Wednesday, February 6, 2008  
Page 2

In light of the foregoing, the Board recommends that this bill be held. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on S.B. No. 2590.