



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and  
House Committee on Health

January 28, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

And

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM  
Dean and Professor of Medicine  
Barry & Virginia Weinman Endowed Chair  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **HB 2462 - RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Yamane and members of the House Committees on Higher Education and Health. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2462, which would repeal the sunset date on tobacco master settlement agreement monies for continued use by the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

We are grateful for the bill's purpose, as stated in section one, to enable the medical school to continue to operate and graduate new physicians.

This coming May, we will graduate 62 physicians, twelve of whom are Native Hawaiians. That gives us a great sense of pride, because we know those students – and really, all our graduates – understand the critical health care needs of Hawai'i's diverse people. Our state's Native Hawaiians citizens, in particular, are five times more likely to die from diabetes than Caucasians in Hawai'i. Other disparities exist among our citizens of Japanese and Filipino ancestry.

The legislature's investment in JABSOM is allowing us to grow MORE physicians. This year, in fact, despite a more than \$3 million dollar reduction in our state general funding, we will – without new state appropriations – increase the size of our incoming class from 62 to 64 students. This is a modest increase, to be sure, but one that required commitment from our faculty, staff and administrators, and something we would not be able to consider without the support you have given us in the tobacco settlement monies.

It is important to understand that although we graduate 62 (and soon to be 64) students per year, the school of medicine educates and trains a total of 250 medical students year-round. Through partnering with our major local hospitals, we simultaneously train another 240 medical “residents”: men and women with their medical degrees who are treating patients while mastering their skills in fields including primary care, pediatrics, obstetrics and family medicine. We have another ten students who are from disadvantaged backgrounds whom we are training for a fifth year of college study, so that they may become medical students. Additionally, we have another 120 or so undergraduate and graduate students studying health sciences, including Public Health, Medical Technology and Communication Science Disorders.

We need to keep JABSOM on a course to success because we face a rapidly growing physician shortage, because we attract major funding into the community – 42 million dollars last year – through outside sources to be spent on research and outreach to benefit our community, and because we treat Hawai'i's people for tobacco-related disease and strive to reduce the tobacco addiction that costs our state more than 350 million dollars a year and destroys the quality of our citizens' lives.

Briefly, on workforce, our latest research – reported to this legislature the past week – shows that 40% of Hawai'i's current practicing physicians are expected to reach retirement age within 10 years. According to national standards, we are already more than 500 physicians short, based on our population. Just maintaining that underserved status will require us to graduate or recruit into the state more than 150 physicians each year.

When JABSOM's Kaka'ako campus was built, the medical school also had to assume its own expenses for electricity, security and custodial services – costs that were previously absorbed by UH Mānoa. The tobacco settlement funding allows us to meet those expenses.

We are making every effort to reduce the amount of general fund support required for JABSOM. In addition to the state-imposed budget cuts this past year, we have instituted a "green initiative" that is projected to save one million dollars this year by shortening hours of operation – and at times shutting down completely – our medical education building. As you know, that is on top of the fact that our facility already is more efficient than many other state buildings because of features, including the energy saving seawater cooling system, which allowed JABSOM to be awarded a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in 2008.

Finally, tobacco cessation and tobacco dependence treatment for the people of Hawai'i are prominent throughout the medical school's curriculum.

Our JABSOM faculty, residents, medical students, and related healthcare professionals provide daily care for patients who smoke, and routinely offer them help in quitting through interventional counseling.

Tobacco dependence and its management are taught throughout all four years of our medical school curriculum. They are integrated with patient care responsibilities in the post-graduate residency training programs. And our faculty and students are actively involved in community education, including a variety of programs that benefit Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and through hospital-based services that benefit the people of Hawai'i. Our students also voluntarily treat Hawai'i's homeless families at four state-sponsored shelters, twice per week.

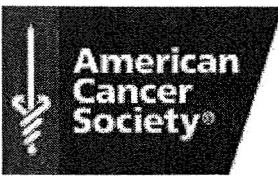
Because it is well-reported in the medical literature that smokers are almost 30% more likely to quit after being counseled by their physician, it should be recognized that

JABSOM provides the State with an invaluable resource that contributes significantly towards helping Hawai'i smokers quit: Simply put, we *are* Hawai'i's doctors:

- JABSOM clinical faculty members (paid and volunteer) represent more than one- third of the practicing physicians in Hawai'i.
- Half of all physicians practicing in Hawai'i – treating Hawai'i's people right now – are graduates of JABSOM or its post-graduate residency training program.

In setting aside a portion of the tobacco settlement to pay construction debt, the legislature allowed the medical school's new campus to be built. In allowing us to use tobacco settlement monies for some of our operating expenses, you have allowed the medical school to survive. And we are committed to treating and training Hawai'i's people today and for the future.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



*The Official Sponsor of Birthdays*

January 27, 2010

Committee on Higher Education  
Representative Jerry Chang, Chair  
Representative Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair

Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

**Hearing:**

2:00 P.M. Thursday, January 28, 2010  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

**RE: HB2462 – Relating to use of tobacco settlement funds.**

**Comments**

Chairs Chang and Yamane and members of the Committees on Higher Education, and Health. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments on HB2462 which repeals the sunset date in Act 264, and makes permanent the 28% allocation from the Hawaii tobacco settlement special fund to the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer. This mission includes advocating for access to quality health care, medical and biomedical research, public health policy, and effective tobacco control measures.

The Society values a robust medical school to teach and train high-quality physicians, biomedical scientists, and allied health workers for Hawaii and the Pacific. We also see equal value in having a viable and sustainable tobacco control program dedicated to reducing the negative impact on the health of our citizens caused by tobacco use.

Both our medical school and our tobacco control program have positive health impacts in the treatment and prevention of cancers in Hawaii. For this reason, we offer comments only and elect not to support or oppose HB2462.

We only ask that our legislature, in addition to providing for the sustainability of JABSOM, also continue to provide for the sustainability of our tobacco control prevention and cessation efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke.

George S. Massengale, JD  
Director of Government Relations



**Testimony to the House Committees on Higher Education and Health  
Thursday, January 28, 2010  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2462 RELATING TO TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Chairs Chang and Yamane, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Nishimoto, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber").

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

A principal part of the Chamber's role has been to foster and improve healthcare in Hawaii through our support of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and partnership with the hospitals in Hawaii. The Chamber recognizes that JABSOM plays a major role in supplying the state with much needed qualified physicians.

We are writing in strong support of HB 2462 Relating To Use Of Tobacco Settlement Funds which will enable the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to continue to use tobacco settlement funds in order to operate and graduate new physicians in Hawaii. Act 264 which was passed in 2007 allowed JABSOM to utilize the tobacco settlement funds for operating expenses. However, Act 264 will sunset as of June 2011. Once Act 264 sunsets, the ability of JABSOM to apply tobacco settlement funds for operating expenses will be eliminated. This will have a significant negative impact upon JABSOM's ability to graduate new physicians.

JABSOM plays a major role in educating and thereby providing physicians in Hawaii. As much as 80% or more of its graduating physicians remain in Hawaii, providing much needed health care locally. Nearly 90% of JABSOM's students are residents of Hawaii. Without JABSOM, Hawaii's students would have to be sent to another state to train, and the likelihood of their returning to practice in Hawaii would be compromised because of the allure of higher incomes and lower costs of living.

Additionally, JABSOM's faculty members do not just teach. Many of them also have active practices and treat Hawaii's families, practicing in partnership with our teaching hospitals. With

the increasing shortage of physicians throughout the state, eliminating funding to JABSOM will reduce its ability to continue to "grow" more physicians for our citizens. Clearly, the gap between physician workforce needs and physician availability is growing and will continue to do so as our population and physician workforce continues to age.

Therefore, we urge the Committees to pass HB 2462 and maintain the funding mechanism for JABSOM. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





55 Merchant Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813-4333

## HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

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www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

**Thursday - January 28, 2010 – 2:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 309**

### **The House Committee on Higher Education**

To: Representative Jerry Chang, Chair  
Representative Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair

### **The House Committee on Health**

To: Representative Ryan H. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President

Re: **HB 2462 RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS**  
**Testimony in Strong Support**

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My name is Ginny Pressler, MD Executive Vice President at Hawaii'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawaii'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawaii'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 44 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Collectively, they lead the state in the areas of women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, bone and joint services and cancer care. Hawaii'i Pacific Health ranks among the top 3.8 percent of hospitals nationwide in electronic medical record adoption, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state. Learn more at: <http://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org>

We are writing in strong support of HB 2462 Relating To Use Of Tobacco Settlement Funds which will enable the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to continue to use tobacco settlement funds in order to operate and graduate new physicians in Hawaii. Act 264 which was passed in 2007 allowed JABSOM to utilize the tobacco settlement funds for operating expenses. However, Act 264 will sunset as of June 2011. Once Act 264 sunsets, the ability of JABSOM to apply tobacco settlement funds for operating expenses will be eliminated, which will have a significant negative impact upon JABSOM's ability to graduate new physicians.

JABSOM plays a major role in educating and thereby providing physicians in Hawaii. As much as 80% or more of its graduating physicians remain in Hawaii, providing much needed health care. Many of those graduates practice within the HPH system as well as in rural areas where the shortage of physicians is greater. With the increasing shortage of physicians throughout the state, eliminating funding to JABSOM will reduce its ability to continue to "grow" more physicians for our citizens.



**STRAUB**  
CLINIC & HOSPITAL



Affiliates of Hawaii'i Pacific Health

Therefore, we urge the Committees to pass HB 2462 and maintain the funding mechanism for JABSOM.  
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 309  
Jan. 28, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

**Supporting HB 2462.**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2462, which repeals the sunset date of the law allowing tobacco settlement funds allocated to the University of Hawaii to be used for the operations of the John A. Burns School of Medicine.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine is the only medical school in Hawaii. Its primary mission is to train physicians for Hawaii and the Pacific, and approximately 60% of the practicing physicians in Hawaii are graduates of the John A. Burns School of Medicine MD or residency program.

In 2007 the Legislature passed Act 264, SLH 2007. At that time 28% of the tobacco settlement funds were allocated to the University of Hawaii to fund a new health and wellness center, including a new medical school facility. The new medical school facility was constructed in 2005. Act 264, SLH 2007, allowed those tobacco settlement funds to be used for the operating expenses of the medical school. This arrangement has been working well, and the sunset date should now be repealed.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HB 2462.



COALITION FOR A  
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

To: The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair, Committee on Higher Education  
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Committee on Health  
The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair, Committee on Higher Education  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Health  
Members, Joint Committee on Higher Education and Health  
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Esq., Policy and Advocacy Director  
Date: ~~January~~ January 28, 2010  
Hrg: Joint Committee on HED/HLT; January 28, 2010 in Rm 309 at 2:00 p.m.  
Re: **Comments regarding HB 2462: Relating to the Use of Tobacco Settlement Funds**

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding HB 2462.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawai'i whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a nonprofit organization of over 3,000 organizations and advocates working to create a healthy Hawai'i through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts. The Coalition started in 1996, under the auspices of the American Cancer Society and was joined by the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association. These three organizations together with many others worked on the initial legislation on how the Tobacco Settlement moneys should be used to promote tobacco prevention and control

The Coalition does not oppose any effort to address the doctor shortage in Hawai'i or efforts to improve medical care here at home. Rather, it offers a history of the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund to the dialogue to emphasize the original intent on how to use this fund.

**I. The Tobacco Settlement Special Fund Was Intended for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation**

Hawai'i receives Tobacco Settlement moneys as the result of a settlement entered into between 46 states and the major tobacco companies to recover damages for tobacco-related health care costs paid by taxpayers because of the harms caused by cigarettes.

By joining the settlement, Hawai'i made a promise to the people of Hawai'i to reduce youth use of tobacco and to advance public health.<sup>1</sup> This promise is reflected in Act 304, SLH 1999 (SB 1034, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1) which creates the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund. The Tobacco

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i upon signing the settlement, agreed to "reduc[e] underage tobacco use by discouraging such use and by preventing Youth access to Tobacco Products" and avoid further cost of litigation to "achieve for [Hawai'i and its] citizens significant funding for the advancement of public health." (See Master Settlement Agreement, Recitals. Available at <http://ag.ca.gov/tobacco/pdf/1msa.pdf> (last visited Jan 28, 2010).

Settlement Special Fund was created to “serve as a medium for a public-private partnership to:(1) Reduce tobacco consumption in Hawaii; (2) Control and prevent chronic diseases where tobacco is a risk factor; (3) Promote healthy lifestyles through better nutrition and improved physical activity; and (4) Promote children’s health. The Tobacco Settlement Special Fund was also intended to “serve as a mechanism to maximize financial resources for tobacco prevention and control, health promotion and disease prevention programs, children’s health programs, and to serve as a long-term source of stable funding for prevention-oriented public health efforts.”

**Although we’ve made significant progress in reducing tobacco use and saving lives because of the investment in tobacco prevention and control, tobacco use remains a serious health issue.** Tobacco continues to kill more people than alcohol, murders, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs and suicides COMBINED. In fact, lung cancer associated with tobacco use kills more women than breast cancer in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i still has over 150,000 adult smokers throughout the State. And more than 1,000 Hawai‘i youth become daily smokers each year. Smoking costs us over half a billion dollars per year in smoking-related health care costs and lost productivity.

## **II. The Legislature Never Intended to Permanently Fund Operations of the University of Hawai‘i Medical School with Tobacco Settlement Moneys**

In 2001, in special session, the Legislature diverted 28% of the Tobacco Settlement moneys from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund (“Rainy Day Fund”) and the Hawai‘i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund to assist in the construction of the medical school.. **The Trust Fund was cut by 50% at that time.**

These diverted funds were only intended for the moneys needed to build the building.<sup>2</sup> Moneys left over after payment would be returned to the Rainy Day Fund and the Hawai‘i Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund. Once the debt had been paid, the Tobacco Settlement moneys would go back to the Rainy Day Fund and Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund.

In 2007, the Legislature added that the 28% allotted for the Medical School could fund **annual operating expenses** with excess going to the Rainy Day Fund (80%) and Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund (20%). The funding of operational expenses was intended to be

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<sup>2</sup> The diverted moneys were to “be applied solely to the payment of the principal or and interest on, and to generate required coverage, if any, for, revenue bonds . . . to finance the cost of construction of a university health and wellness center including a new medical school facility. (21<sup>st</sup> Legislature, 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session, SB 13).

temporary—from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011 when the amendments would be repealed and the medical school portion would remain for building-associated costs only.

In 2008, (Act 16, SLH 2008) the Legislature clarified that HRS 328L-2 would be reenacted in the form prior to the 2007 amendments: the medical school portion of Tobacco Settlement moneys could only be used for the bonds and interest on the bonds to build the facility.

The measure before you today will make the funding for medical school operations permanent.

### **III. The Community Is Hurt By Cuts to Tobacco Prevention and Control Funding**

The greatest reduction from the original allocation has been from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund—almost 75%. These moneys go toward “reducing cigarette smoking and tobacco use among youth and adults through education and enforcement activities, and controlling and preventing chronic diseases where tobacco is a risk factor” has been diverted.

The Trust Fund currently only receives 6.5% of the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund as compared to the original 25%. The recent cuts to the fund mean that less programs receive less grant money from the Trust Fund. Most importantly, the cuts mean that less smokers will receive help to quit, and less youth will learn the tools to reject tobacco from tobacco prevention programs.

In making your decision today, please consider the purpose of the Tobacco Settlement Special Fund and think of the numerous health issues tobacco prevention addresses and the lives impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.



# THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • FAX: (808) 547-4646 • [www.queens.org](http://www.queens.org)

Representative Jerry Chang, Chair  
House Committee on Higher Education

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Health

Thursday, January 28, 2010, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

RE: HB 2462 Relating to Use of Tobacco Settlement Funds

Chairs Chang and Yamane, Vice Chairs Nakashima and Nishimoto and Members of the Committees:

My name is Sharlene Tsuda, Vice President, Community Development of The Queen's Health Systems, testifying in strong support of HB 2462 which repeals the sunset date in Act 264, relating to tobacco fund settlement, for continued use by the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

Queen's is the largest private tertiary care hospital in the State of Hawaii offering specialized care in the areas of cardiology, neuroscience, orthopedics, behavioral health, oncology, women's health, emergency services and trauma. Queen's has the largest number of physicians, nurses, and other professional and technical staff in the state supporting the people of Hawaii.

We recognize that education and research are key ingredients in providing excellent patient care. Queen's has a longstanding history of supporting healthcare education and training in Hawaii and is home to a number of residency programs offered in conjunction with JABSOM. Many of the physicians practicing at Queen's today received their education at JABSOM. As medical knowledge, innovation and technology continue to expand, the capability to prepare future physicians for practice here in Hawaii will become increasingly important.

While Queen's wholly appreciates the Legislature's budgetary challenges in light of the State's economic outlook, we respectfully ask the Legislature's consideration of the positive community benefit of a fully-operational John A. Burns School of Medicine brings to Hawaii. The Queen's Health Systems and The Queen's Medical Center are committed to our partnership with the John A. Burns School of Medicine and look forward to continued collaboration to meet the patient care, education, and research needs of our community.

We urge you to pass this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony Presented Before the  
Higher Education Committee and House Health Committee  
January 28, 2010, 2pm, Room 309  
By Marcus Kawika Iwane

HB 2462: RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Welina mai nei e Representative Chang, Representative Yamane, and members of the State House of Representatives:

My name is Marcus Kawika Iwane and I am currently a fourth year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I was born and raised in Hawai'i. I am a Kamehameha Schools and UH Manoa alumnus. I am honored to have been chosen to attend JABSOM. As a JABSOM student, I was also given the opportunity to be the first Native Hawaiian to receive the American Medical Association Minority Scholars Award as a second-year medical student.

Today, I stand before you in support of HB 2462 RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS.

Within the Hawaiian community, diseases have been prevalent for many generations. I've always wondered why Hawaiian men and women have amongst the highest prevalence of chronic health illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension. As a JABSOM student, I have the opportunity to work within the Hawaiian community as well as with many physicians of the Ahahui o nā Kauka. Through my experience with Ahahui o nā Kauka, I am able to conduct free health screenings for Native Hawaiians, learn about my culture, and teach keiki at schools in the Wai'anae and Nānākuli communities and at Kamehameha about maintaining good health and hygiene including tobacco abstinence and cessation. Through JABSOM, I am also able to reach out into the community by providing health care and education to Hawai'i's homeless population through Hawai'i HOME Project. JABSOM not only graduates highly competent physicians, but physicians who are also culturally sensitive to Native Hawaiians and the health care needs of Hawai'i. Upon graduation from JABSOM, I will soon enter training in Internal Medicine in order to give back to Hawai'i's community through primary care.

Today, only 8% of Hawai'i's practicing physicians are Native Hawaiian. Further, Hawai'i has countless rural areas in need of medical care. The John A. Burns School of Medicine has not only allowed me to pursue my dream of becoming a Native Hawaiian physician, but has also educated and continues to graduate many Native Hawaiian physicians. As you can see, JABSOM is committed to educating aspiring physicians and more importantly, serving the community. Support and investment in JABSOM will ensure growth of Hawai'i's medical community and increase much needed quality medical care to rural areas of Hawaii.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 2462 RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS. Mahalo.

Mahalo nui loa.



Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health and the House Committee on Higher Education  
January 28, 2010, 2:45 p.m. Room 309, Hawai'i State Capitol  
By Christian Kikuchi

HB 2462: RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS

House Health Chairman Ryan Yamane, House Higher Education Chair Jerry Chang and members of the State House of Representatives, Aloha and good afternoon.

I am Christian Kikuchi, a senior medical student representing the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine and here to present the gratitude that I have for the benefits I have received from our state's medical school system.

As a locally born and raised middle class Asian / Native Hawaiian, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that JABSOM has allowed for me to pursue my dreams of becoming a physician. If was not for the existence of JABSOM, my pursuit of a medical career would have never come to fruition. And for this I am grateful as the education, health advocacy, and community services provided by JABSOM allows me to even as a medical student provide outreach for promoting healthy living for communities throughout the state of Hawai'i. From rural communities in Kona to health and wellness centers in Wai'anae and Papakolea, it brings me great joy to give back to the community and contribute to improving the well-being of those living in this state.

As an aspiring Orthopedic surgeon, I am grateful for the opportunity for JABSOM to start my medical career and allow me to fulfill my future goals of being a contributor to the healthcare system in Hawai'i and providing medical care for the continuing demand for Orthopedic care in this state. Through JABSOM, I am now one step closer to fulfilling my hopes of one day becoming a surgeon not just care to the people that call this state home, but also to hopefully give back and continue to train the next generation of surgeons in the State of Hawai'i.

I thank you legislators for your continued support of JABSOM and am grateful for the opportunity that you have been able to provide for the next generation of physicians to serve this state that I love.

Mahalo.

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health and the House Committee on Higher Education  
January 28, 2010, 2:00 p.m. Room 309  
By Jordan Lee  
HB 2462: RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Aloha, Chairs Yamane and Chang and members of the House of Representatives.

I humbly ask the legislature to consider approval of House Bill 2462 to continue funding of the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (UH JABSOM) through allotments from the Tobacco Settlement Act.

As a fourth year medical student and having served as class president for the past three years, I have grown in so many ways, both professionally and personally, throughout my medical education at UH JABSOM. Without the continued support from the legislature, it would not have been possible to attend an excellent medical school that serves the healthcare needs and concerns of Hawai'i and the greater Pacific Rim. Through an innovative problem-based learning (PBL) curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities and educational resources, I have been able to develop essential clinical skills and a solid knowledge base that will prepare me well for residency training in the near future and life as a practicing physician thereafter.

One of the strongest assets of UH JABSOM is its network of students, alumni and physicians. Inherent to the nature of its geographic isolation, Hawai'i is a special place to live and to practice medicine; and similarly the JABSOM connection is a strong, interconnected and supportive one. I have had the privilege and honor to be mentored by amazing physicians of JABSOM, with organizations such as the 'Ahahui o Na Kauka (Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians). This was especially true coming from a humble background and with no one really to turn to in my family for advice on pursuing medicine as a career. Even when my Hawaiian grandmother fell ill to a severe case of acute respiratory distress syndrome, I felt confident that the care she was receiving from JABSOM resident and attending physicians was more than sufficient. It was quality care and compassionate care, both of which are characteristic of JABSOM.

In a few short months, I will be graduating from this fine institution, and I will carry with me my sense of Hawaiian pride wherever I match for residency training.

I definitely plan on practicing medicine here in Hawai'i and very much so desire the opportunity to continue supporting the next generation of doctors, through various mentorship roles that were once afforded to me during my education. It is my sincere hope that the legislature also recognizes the value and importance of continuing to support the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine through the approval of House Bill 2462. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully yours,

Jordan K. Lee, MSIV

University of Hawai'i at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine, MD candidate 2010

Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Health and the House Committee on Higher Education  
January 28, 2010, 2:45 p.m. Room 309, Hawai'i State Capitol  
Submitted by Bradlee Sako

HB 2462: RELATING TO USE OF TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Aloha Chair Yamane, Chair Chang and members of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. My name is Bradlee Sako, currently a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am writing this letter to urge your continued support of our state's medical school.

I write to you not only as a medical student of JABSOM, but also as a proud product of our state's public education system. From my kindergarten days at Wahiawa Elementary, to my undergraduate years as a Regent and Presidential Scholar at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I have been secure in the knowledge that Hawai'i's public education system provides the level of training and support capable of matching up with any other school in the nation.

My experiences at JABSOM have been invaluable in preparing me for a future not just as a qualified physician, but a qualified physician for Hawai'i. My continuing involvement with the Hawai'i Homeless Outreach and Medical Education Project, a free student-run clinic founded and supported by JABSOM faculty, has made me acutely aware of not only the medical epidemiology in our islands, but the socio-economic pathology as well. My training with the many community and JABSOM faculty physicians as well as the diverse patient populations they serve, has given me a grounding in the cultural sensitivity essential to the practice of medicine in our state that would be difficult to match in any other setting.

It is my intention to return to my hometown of Wahiawa to practice family medicine as a community physician. The education I received by our state has given me a commitment to the islands I call my home. The training I received at JABSOM has given me the skills I need to honor my commitment.

I urge you to invest in the financial health of JABSOM, an institution I love and will always be grateful to. Mahalo.

Bradlee Sako