



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Touching Lives Every Day"

**House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308
Hawaii State Capitol**

SCR 178, SD1 - URGING HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO ACCEPT MEDICAL STUDENT ROTATIONS FROM A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE BASED OUT OF THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, AND OTHER HAWAII-BASED MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

**Testimony of Alice M. Hall, Esq.
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 178, SD1 regarding Medical Student rotations at the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation hospitals.

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation's mandate is to operate a hospitals system with a mission to provide the state's health care safety net service. As a hospital system operating primarily in rural areas, we recognize a shortage of qualified health care professionals exists and are concerned with recruitment and retention of healthcare providers.

HHSC supports the concept of the resolution, however, it is concerned about the language of the resolution that "finds HHSC is obligated as a state-funded hospital system to provide Hawaii-based medical students with the medical rotations they need in any of the HHSC facilities." Although serving as a training hospital is outside of HHSC's statutory mandate and core mission, HHSC will endeavor to work with Hawaii-based medical schools with student and resident rotations, based on the ability of our medical staff at our respective facilities.

HHSC currently has numerous affiliation agreements with various medical schools, including the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, in addition to other university programs (i.e., pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy), and accepts student interns and medical residents. A process exists wherein qualified medical schools and programs directly contact the respective hospitals, work with the medical staff officers, and develop an affiliation agreement with HHSC to accept placements. In other words, HHSC currently has a good system that is based on collaboration and partnering, and entrusts the schools to coordinate placements and find qualified preceptors.