



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
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by
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SCR178/SR79 – 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

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green and members of the Committee:

We have had a chance to review the bills noted above and would like to enhance prior testimony of others with the following important points.

Ongoing research at JABSOM, commissioned by the legislature, has indeed demonstrated a shortage of physicians in both primary care and a number of essential specialties in our state.

JABSOM is Hawai'i's only public medical school since it was established in 1965. It has a long and sustained history of high performance. Over half of the State's physicians have been JABSOM students, JABSOM/HRP residents or JABSOM faculty.

As a result of the recent workforce research findings, JABSOM initiated an expansion of its entering class this year and will continue to work toward an entering class size of 75 students over the next decade despite very difficult budgetary circumstances.

JABSOM selects 90% of its entering class from Hawai'i and oversees postgraduate training programs for Hawai'i in multiple community hospitals. This approach creates the high rate of return seen in our practicing physician population.

We have been working with the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) and its component hospitals and clinics to identify student rotations on neighbor islands that meet the strict accreditation standards required for JABSOM. We have selectively invested resources in these student and post-graduate trainee (resident) rotations. We have found HHSC to be a very willing partner in this process. Examples include residents at Maui Memorial, residents and students at Hilo Medical Center and evolving student rotations at other sites, including Kona.

Setting up high quality rotations for students to learn the practice of medicine is not a simple task. It takes resources and requires that practicing physicians in the community be willing to embrace these opportunities.

We applaud the efforts of the AT Stills University based in Arizona to contribute to the future workforce in Hawai'i. We encourage this private mainland school with an affiliation at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) to also contribute needed resources to the HHSC facilities and local physicians such that the independent programs desired by this alternative program can be developed without a dependence upon public resources.