

SR 79



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

"Touching Lives Every Day"

**Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 22, 2010
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016
Hawaii State Capitol**

SCR 178 and SR 79 - 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 and SR 79 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.

Although serving as a training hospital is outside of HHSC's statutory mandate and core mission, HHSC welcomes medical student interns and residents at our respective facilities. We currently have numerous affiliation agreements with various medical schools and other university programs (including medical and other healthcare professionals, e.g., pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy), and accept student interns and medical residents in HHSC facilities. 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.

We appreciate the importance of addressing the need for physicians in rural areas and interest in placement of medical students at HHSC hospitals. However, we suggest that this resolution is not necessary because a process and practice is already in place for accepting medical students and residents at HHSC hospitals.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

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