

GM879

JAMES HASTINGS

Nomination to the Hawaii Medical
Education Council

Statement of James Hastings, MD in answer to questions posed by Senator Jill Tokuda re: Nomination to the Hawaii Medical Education Council

(1): Why did you apply to serve on the Hawaii Medical Education Council?

Graduate Medical Education serves as the major pipeline to for maintenance, development and shaping of the professional physician- health talent pool for the community. This Council should serve as the linkage between the community resources that support Graduate Medical Education and the State government. It should serve as a resource for both the State and the legislature as to opportunities and challenges that exist in developing and implementing GME programs.

As an informed citizen of the State, I believe I have unique insight in the GME process and might be of service in this process.

(2): Why....are you qualified for this position?

My past experience includes over 20 years as a program director of five different GME training programs in three different cities. The last in Honolulu as Program Director for both Internal Medicine Residency and Transitional Internship at University of Hawaii, with HRP. Additionally, I directed all US Army Graduate Medical Education Programs (about 1800 trainees for three years and was US Army Representative to ACGME.

For the past 7 years I have been Director of VA Pacific Island Health Care System. The VA sponsors physicians' postgraduate training in several venues. There are 22 trainees in about 4 HRP programs and about 8 trainees in 3 Tripler Army Medical Center training programs.

The VA also sponsors 8 psychology post doctorate trainees in our community as well as other training programs in the health care arena.

“Highlight three qualities you feel make you highly qualified candidate”

- 1: I have learned the requirement for working as a member of a team/group to achieve the “right” answer to a problem.
- 2: I have learned to listen to others opinions and presentations before making a decision.
- 3: I have broad experience with the issues facing medical education and especially in this community.

(3): What recommendations would you make to the legislature and Board of Regents to improve health care training programs in the state?

- 1: I would explore fiscal support for training programs that would address physician shortages in the state. I would focus this support on graduate medical education. Hawaii is one of few states that does

not directly support graduate medical education. In our fiscally challenged state, creative ways could be utilized, such as an earned income tax credit focused at a medical education loan repayment. Eligible individuals could be identified by specialty training and even locus of practice. This technique could be used to potentially attract the talent needed.

2: I would explore establishing fellowship training programs. These can be done working with collaboration of Hospital Systems and Medical School. They increase the chance of building specialty care provider support in our State.

(4): What challenges do you see facing our healthcare industry, specifically relating to our workforce needs?

1: We are currently short of physicians in our state. This is especially prevalent on our outer islands.

This shortage is projected to increase in the next several years. Attracting the healthcare workforce is a complex problem that requires innovative solutions and collaboration of several different constituencies to succeed.

2: Providing the support structures and appropriate professional environment to recruit and retain specialty physicians is a challenge in a geographically isolated area.

(5): During these difficult economic times, how can we ensure adequate funding for our healthcare training programs?

1: Explore reimbursement methodologies outside of usual sources: i.e. endowments, VA, DOD, research fellowships as examples.

2: Garner support from all health care organizations in Hawaii to share in support of GME programs.

It is in their interest and they benefit from the presence of these programs. Currently, the majority of the supporters for these programs come from a limited number of the organizations who benefit from having these programs. (Does HMSA support any programs?)

(6): Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest..... How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

1: I do not see any possible conflicts of interest. I would represent the Veterans Administration in my participation on the Council.

GM879

TESTIMONY



SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Conference Room 225

April 16, 2012 at 1:15 p.m.

Testimony in support of GM 879, which nominates Dr. James Hastings to the Hawaii Medical Education Council

My name is George W. Greene, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), whose membership includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, two-thirds of the long term care beds, home care agencies and hospices, and other related provider organizations. Our provider members employ more than 40,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the nomination of Dr. James Hastings to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.

The Hawaii Medical Education Council works to ensure the adequacy of health care training programs in Hawaii so that they are able to provide the health care workforce needed to address the health care needs of the people of Hawaii. Specifically, the Council monitors Hawaii's health care workforce and health care needs, particularly regarding physicians. The Council also monitors health care training programs, particularly regarding graduate medical education. Furthermore, the Council recommends to the Legislature and Board of Regents the changes needed to the state's health care training programs. Finally, the Council works with other agencies to develop a plan to ensure adequate funding of health care training programs in the state.

Dr. Hastings is the Director of the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, he is responsible for directing the delivery of health care services to veterans in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa.

Dr. Hastings is also a part-time physician educator at the University of Hawaii's School of Medicine, where he is a former Chairman of the Department of Medicine. In this capacity, he had educational responsibilities for medical students, residents and continuing medical education for staff.

Previously in his career Dr. Hastings served as Commanding General, Tripler AMC. He also served as Commanding General, Dwight David Eisenhower AMC, in Augusta, GA, and Commander, Walter Reed AMC, in Washington, DC. In addition, he held several other positions at Army health care facilities throughout the world.

Dr. Hastings is uniquely qualified to serve on the Hawaii Medical Education Council. I am confident that he will serve with dignity, wisdom, and integrity.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports GM 879.

**Written Testimony
In Support of
Dr. James Hastings
By
Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM**

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I would like to offer a personal recommendation for the reappointment of James E. Hastings, M.D. to the Hawaii Medical Education Council Board.

As Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, I have worked with Dr. Hastings for many rewarding and enjoyable years, and found him to be extremely dedicated and informed about medical education issues in our State. He is committed to Hawaii and to our medical community and brings a depth of experience that would greatly benefit the Board.

Dr. Hastings' experience includes having served as the commander of the Tripler Army Medical Center, and the Walter Reed Medical Center. He is currently the Director at the Veteran's Administration (VA) in Hawaii where he continues to serve current and former members of the armed services. The VA funds positions in graduate medical education across the United States and here in our own state. The VA is an integral part of our medical education process and the involvement of its leader on the Council adds an important perspective.

Thank you for your consideration.