



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.

By

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM, Dean and Professor of Medicine
and

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, Professor,
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health; Designated Institutional Official
and Graduate Medical Education Director

John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 598 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARK MUGIISHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 598 which seeks consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **MARK MUGIISHI**, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

The University of Hawai'i System (UH) and its John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) administer two (2) statutes related to graduate medical education (GME) and addressing the severe physician shortage needs in Hawai'i.

- [HRS § 304A-1702] – Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program, was established to formally encompass the administration of UH JABSOM's institutional graduate medical education (GME) program.
- [HRS §§304A-1703, 1704, 1705] – Medical Education Council, was created within UH JABSOM and called "**The Hawai'i Medical Education Council**" (HMEC). HMEC was given the administrative **duties and powers** to:
 - (1) Analyze the State healthcare workforce for the present and future, focusing in particular on the State's need for physicians;
 - (2) Assess the State's healthcare training programs, focusing on UH JABSOM's institutional GME enterprise to determine its ability to meet the workforce needs identified by HMEC;
 - (3) Recommend to the Legislature and UH Board of Regents (BOR) ways in which identified GME and other healthcare training programs can improve and change in order to effectively meet the HMEC assessment;
 - (4) Work with other entities and state agencies, and in consultation with the Legislature and BOR, develop and implement a Plan to ensure the adequate funding of healthcare training programs in the State, with an emphasis on UH JABSOM GME programs;

- (5) Seek funding to implement the funding Plan from all public (county, state and federal government) and private sources;
- (6) Monitor and continue to improve the funding Plan; and,
- (7) Submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of each regular Legislative session.

Per statute, the HMEC is comprised of eight Governor-appointed and Legislature-confirmed individuals and five ex-officio members, including the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine who serves as the Chair. The HMEC is administered by the Designated Institutional Official and Director of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs.

Solving Hawai'i's physician (and health professions) workforce shortage requires multi-sector engagement and ownership, a multi-pronged and longitudinal approach, as well as ideas and resources from the private sector (*i.e., insurers, hospitals, businesses and private health care organizations committed to improving and maintaining healthy citizens and communities*) the public sector (*i.e., primary-, secondary-, and higher education, legislature, Departments of Health and Human Services and Federal agencies*) and the larger communities of Hawai'i.

Dr. Mark Mugiishi is the Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the Hawai'i Medical Services Association (HMSA) and he would be an excellent representative for a Representative of the Health Professionals Community, as required by the Charter. He brings with him personal practice experience from O'ahu (Kuakini Medical Center), but has also had key roles in the education of the next generation of surgeons for Hawai'i. His input would greatly benefit the Council, whose charge is to ensure that planning and medical education training meets the needs of the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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April 6, 2017

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Re: **GM 598** – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i
Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mark Mugiishi, for
a Term to Expire 06-30-19

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on GM 598, offering for consideration and confirmation the Governor's nomination of Dr. Mark Mugiishi to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (Council). HMSA enthusiastically supports Dr. Mugiishi's confirmation.

Pursuant to HRS Sections 304A, 1703-1705, the Council is established within the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to assess Hawaii's healthcare workforce needs, particularly with respect to physician access, and to evaluate the ability of JABSOM's training programs to meet those workforce needs. Dr. Mugiishi's background, experiences, and credentials make him a superior candidate for membership on the Council.

After having served as a medical consultant, Medical Director and Senior Vice President for Clinical Affairs at HMSA, Dr. Mugiishi now serves as HMSA's Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. He has been front-and-center leading the coordinated effort to transform HMSA's physician payment model. Simultaneously working as a practicing surgeon, Dr. Mugiishi is empathetic to the trials and struggles physicians endure in modern healthcare, and he absolutely understands how difficult change can be for a physician and the provider's office. But, more importantly, he fully is cognizant that, without change, Hawaii's healthcare system will be unsustainable.

Dr. Mugiishi is no stranger to academia and medical education. He serves as Associate Chair of JABSOM's Department of Surgery and Director of Surgical Education, and he is the Deputy Director of JABSOM's Transitional Residency Program.

Dr. Mugiishi also brings with him experience in the medical-business world. He has served as the Medical Director of Cellular Bioengineering, Inc., an accelerator of disruptive technologies with biomedical applications. He is the Co-Founder of both the Endoscopy Institute of Hawaii and the Eye Surgery Center of Hawaii.

For Dr. Mugiishi, serving people goes beyond caring for and improving their medical needs. He sees healthcare as caring for the whole individual and improving the wellbeing of everyone in the community. He has mentored children serving as a high school basketball coach, garnering 400 wins, 10 ILH titles, and seven State championships for Iolani School, where he serves as



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Vice Chair and Chair-Elect of its School Board of Governors. And, as an impresario of a Broadway production, “Allegiance,” he also is appreciative of the value of music and storytelling in sustaining people’s emotional wellbeing.

HMSA Chief Executive Officer Mike Gold once introduced Dr. Mugiishi as a “Renaissance man.” That he truly is – a man of the arts and sciences. He would bring to the Council a balanced, whole-world view Hawaii’s healthcare system and about the needs and potential solutions to Hawaii’s physician workforce conundrum.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We commend to you Dr. Mugiishi for confirmation as a member of the Hawai’i Medical Education Council.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President, Government Relations