

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017
Time: 1:15pm
Location: Conference Room 414

Senate Committee on Higher Education

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Ray Vara
President & CEO

**Re: Testimony in Support, Governor's Message 720
Kenneth Robbins, MD
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council**

My name is Ray Vara, President and CEO of Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I am writing in strong support of GM720 regarding the nomination of Dr. Kenneth Robbins to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

Dr. Robbins' input will greatly benefit the Council whose charge is to ensure that the planning and medical education training occurring across our State meets the needs of our community and to continue the work of addressing and reducing the physician and healthcare workforce shortage in Hawai'i.

I have had the pleasure of working directly with Dr. Robbins as he serves as a member of my Executive Team where he continues to foster excellence within our organization in his role as Chief Medical Officer of Hawai'i Pacific Health. Dr. Robbins brings a wealth of experience in this area whose career began as a Straub pediatrician over 30 years ago as well as insight gained as an administrator in his current role with HPH. Dr. Robbins has an intimate understanding of the training needs of future physicians to best meet the needs of patients across the State.

For these reasons, I strongly support his nomination to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.