



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, April 12, 2018 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 572 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical
Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, TODD SETO, for a term to expire 06-30-
2019.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the Governor's
nominee, Dr. Todd Seto, for consideration and appointment to the Hawai'i Medical
Education Council (HMEC).

Dr. Seto is currently the Director of the Center for Outcomes Research and Education
(CORE), Director of the Office for Research and Development, and Co-Chair of the
Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC) Subcommittees on Quality and Patient
Safety and Research at the Queens Medical Center. His experiences as a physician
and leader will make him a strong asset for the HMEC. He is committed to Hawai'i and
dedicates himself to the improvement of health care for our state as indicated by his
roles in research, clinical training, and patient safety. His input would greatly benefit
HMEC as a representative of the Queen's Medical Center, which is one of our major
clinical training sites for JABSOM medical students, residents and fellows.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of the
Governor's nomination of Dr. Seto.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education

From: Whitney Limm, MD, Executive Vice President, Clinical Integration and Chief Physician
Executive, The Queen's Health Systems 

Date: April 11, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Higher Education Hearing; Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 1:15 PM in
Room 224

Re: GM572, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical
Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, TODD SETO, for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

My name is Whitney Limm and I am the Executive Vice President for Clinical Integration and the Chief Physician Executive for The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony support of Todd Seto's nomination to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

Dr. Todd Seto is an outstanding clinician, teacher, and researcher. His colleagues describe him as a selfless, humble, kind, compassionate and empowering member of the care team. As a strong advocate for patients and patient safety, Dr. Seto continually pushes to improve quality patient care and the lives of the people of Hawai'i through his clinical practice, research, and mentorship.

Dr. Seto's leadership and collaborative nature has helped bring together various hospital and physician teams to facilitate and address any issues that may arise, ultimately resulting in positive patient outcomes. He established CORE (Center for Clinical Outcomes Research) at The Queen's Medical Center and has published 33 papers over the past five years in medical journals such as The Journal of The American College of Cardiology, Journal of Hypertension, and The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Despite various roles as the Medical Director for the Center of Outcomes Research and Evaluation, and Director for Academic Affairs and Research, Dr. Seto always makes himself available when needed as a clinical expert and physician leader. He empowers those around him for their strengths and contributions, and is an exemplary mentor to junior physicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Todd Seto to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.