



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 9:45 a.m.

By

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John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

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Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 873 – RELATING TO TEACHING HOSPITALS

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 873 which would appropriate funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to study the impact and feasibility of creating a teaching hospital on West Hawai'i.

There is a growing need for an additional hospital in West Hawai'i in light of the increasing population in the area and the numbers of tourists as well as local residents visiting the county. Access to timely and appropriate health care for West Hawai'i continues to be a concern.

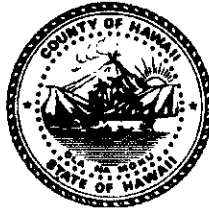
The workforce studies conducted by JABSOM indicate that Hawai'i is nearly 800 physicians short (across all disciplines) when compared to national norms. This number has been steadily rising over the years and is predicted to increase as more physicians reach retirement age. However, it has been shown that physicians who train in Hawai'i remain here to practice. 80% of physicians who received their medical degree and completed their residency training at JABSOM have stayed in Hawai'i which is the highest in the nation. The addition of a teaching hospital in West Hawai'i would provide an additional training site for our local students who may potentially practice here.

JABSOM agrees that a feasibility study for a teaching hospital in West Hawai'i would be valuable. The study should be undertaken in conjunction with leadership from the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation and with input from other important community partners so that a meaningful outcome may be achieved.

JABSOM supports HB 873 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 4, 2019

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Hawai'i State Legislature



Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee members:

Re: HB 873, RELATING TO TEACHING HOSPITALS

The concept of establishing a teaching hospital in West Hawai'i is a masterstroke. It will serve as a focus for recruiting, training and retaining the healthcare workers – physicians, nurses and others – that are so sorely needed on Hawai'i Island. It will be core to the healthcare infrastructure enhancements needed to care for our growing population, predicted by DBEDT to reach 300,000 by 2040.

A West Hawai'i teaching hospital will attract physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, phlebotomists, x-ray technicians, all the ancillary staff needed to run a hospital. It will become the anchor of a robust, coordinated healthcare system, key to sustaining and retaining the healthcare workers currently lacking on the Big Island. It will enhance and diversify our economy, presently so dependent on tourism. It may have a positive impact on tourism itself, assuring older or medically fragile tourists that West Hawaii is a safe place to be and perhaps even bringing "medical tourists" seeking treatment.

Most of all, it will mean that clinical services and medical services presently absent on-island will be available to our residents, allowing local families to receive care and support at home, often a big part of any recovery.

Teaching hospitals are known to raise the standard of care in the communities they serve, providing opportunity and employment, while better addressing everyday healthcare needs of residents and visitors alike.

This Legislature approved a feasibility study once, but the funds lapsed. I sincerely hope that you will authorize funding again, so that such a study can move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harry Kim
Mayor

LATE

HB-873

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:54:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: