



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1089
RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: January 31, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined General Fund appropriation.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) does not possess the expertise to
3 conduct a useful comparison of foreign medical certification requirements, federal immigration
4 laws, and financial aid proposed by HB1089. There are existing professional, licensing, and
5 community standards of practice over which the department has little or no regulatory authority,
6 and as a result, there is little practical value in requesting DOH propose alternatives.

7 In lieu of a comprehensive pilot program, the department recommends the Legislature examine
8 funding scholarships for residents interested in attending foreign medical schools in exchange for
9 a commitment to serve in Hawaii.

10 Residents should also be encouraged to pursue other high value non-physician educational
11 programs offered locally such as Advanced Practice Registered Nurse credentials. APRNs in
12 particular have demonstrated commitment to rural and underserved communities and their
13 residents that contribute to a more efficient distribution of scarce clinical resources.

14 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Professor & Dean

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael S. Bruno, PhD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and
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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1089 – RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION

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

House Bill 1089 requests the Department of Health to conduct a study as to the feasibility of establishing a pilot program to permit residents of Hawai'i to attend a college of medicine in the Philippines in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawai'i after graduation. The University of Hawai'i is committed to providing opportunities for students from Hawai'i to become physicians and to increase the number of physicians in Hawai'i to help address the growing physician shortage in Hawai'i.

The proposal would use Hawai'i state taxpayer dollars to fund medical education in the Philippines. Although the graduates of international medical schools can occasionally successfully compete for post-graduate medical education programs (i.e., a "residency" position) in the U.S., these graduates are much less likely to receive a residency "match" as required for subsequent licensing and practice in the U.S. The greatest challenge to increasing the supply of practicing physicians is the availability of residency positions in Hawai'i and elsewhere in the U.S. There are more applicants than there are available positions. The following factors help increase an applicant's chances of obtaining a residency position:

(1) Attending an LCME accredited medical school such as the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) - as 92% of U.S. medical school seniors at allopathic schools (such as JABSOM) are matched to a residency program in the student's preferred specialty as compared to 51% of U.S. residents who attended non-U.S. based medical schools;

(2) Superior scores on the USMLE examinations and passing all USMLE examinations on the first try are highly associated with attaining a position at the best residency training programs. Among first-time takers of the first step of three exams, U.S. medical

school graduates pass 94% on the first attempt whereas non-U.S. medical school graduates pass 78% on the first attempt. For repeat test takers, only 41% of non-U.S. medical school graduates pass on repeat attempts.

(3) Students who do not match to a residency position in their year of graduation have an even lower probability of matching (i.e., small chance of being accepted into a U.S. residency program) in subsequent years.

Hawai'i residents who are unsuccessful in this process of attaining an accredited U.S. residency position would have wasted an enormous amount of time, effort and money by attending a medical school out of the country. Thus, the return on state investment seems limited with such an international program.

Nonetheless, there are elements of the proposal worthy of consideration if enacted WITHIN Hawai'i. Specifically, were the state to fund a full-tuition scholarship program for Hawai'i residents admitted to JABSOM that was coupled to a subsequent practice payback requirement, the school could attract more of the approximately 20 Hawai'i residents who take medical school offers elsewhere in the U.S.

We have learned that 80% of students who obtain their medical degrees from JABSOM and go on to complete their residency with JABSOM remain in the state to practice. With more stable and enhanced investment in the operations of JABSOM, further expansion of the class size and support of neighbor island practice and training programs could be enhanced. The University of Hawai'i looks forward to further conversation with the legislature regarding effective approaches by which the state can invest in its medical school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.

HB-1089

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:14:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 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:

LATE

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 402
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and members of the Committee:

I am in strong support of **House Bill 1089 Relating to Medical Education** which will be heard by the Health Committee on January 31, 2019.

HB 1089 appropriates funds to the Hawaii State Department of Health to perform a study regarding a pilot program to pay for Hawaii residents to attend a college of medicine in the Philippines in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawaii after graduation.

This bill addresses the state's acute physician shortage which is estimated to be as high as 700 doctors by the Year 2020. The University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine's enrollment during the 2016-2017 academic year was 280 students, which includes 70 who were accepted as first-year students. One way to boost enrollment would be to add faculty or expand facilities, both of which are expensive measures.

HB 1089 is a less expensive alternative and attractive option for Hawaii students who wish to pursue a medical education. It is reasonable to believe Hawaii residents who intend to practice medicine would be encouraged to pursue their studies in the Philippines and return to address Hawaii's physician shortfall, if their education is subsidized.

I respectfully ask that your committee pass HB 1089 which is one way to reduce our state's physician shortfall, particularly in rural and underserved areas on the neighbor islands.

Sincerely,

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