



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, Dean  
Lee Ellen Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, FAAFP  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & DIO  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 808 – Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERT HONG, For A Term To Expire 06-30-2025

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 808 and the nomination of Dr. Robert Hong to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (Council).

As a former Integrated Medical Residency and Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program Director, Dr. Hong is well equipped to provide direct knowledge on how to build and navigate programs and systems. Dr. Hong's 30+ years of experience working as clinical teacher, program director in medical education, and former medical director have provided him with the experiences needed to understand the intricacies of graduate medical education and the importance of training a sustainable workforce for Hawai'i. Throughout his medical and academic career, he has directly trained many physicians who currently practice throughout the State.

With an interest in developing systems of inter-professional practice teams, Dr. Hong will be instrumental in the ongoing developments of the Council. His leadership skills and dedication to medical education would make him a valuable asset for the medical education community to benefit the people of Hawai'i.

We stand in strong support of Dr. Hong's nomination and urge this Committee to confirm his appointment to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.