



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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and

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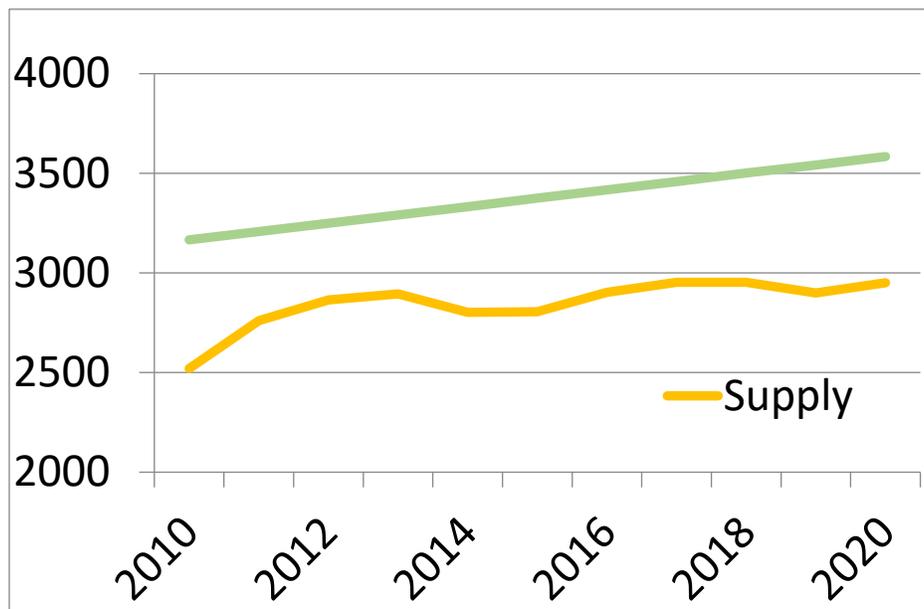
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 428 HD1 – RELATING TO PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 428 HD1, which permits continuation of the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment program that supports research of the supply and demand of physicians in Hawai'i, as well as interventions to recruit physicians and increase career satisfaction of practicing physicians. Currently the program is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017.

Hawai'i has a shortage of over 500 doctors, which has improved from a shortage of 600 in 2015. The pattern of physician supply and demand is outlined in the graph below.



Activities that have been undertaken with the funds paid by the physicians upon relicensure include:

Continuing Medical Education for over 4,000 person-hours a year in the form of an:

1. Annual Hawai'i Health Workforce Summit for 500 providers to learn about changes in healthcare, avoidance of burn out, new advances in rural health, geriatrics and electronic health records;
2. Project ECHO, weekly telehealth sessions addressing endocrinology/diabetes, behavioral health, and geriatrics (monthly).

Recruitment of new physicians to Hawai'i: physicians have found employment in Hawai'i based on job advertisements at [www.ahec.hawaii.edu](http://www.ahec.hawaii.edu) where all open positions in the state are advertised and collaboration with Hawai'i Physician Recruiters group.

Support for activities to recruit students into health careers such as those at [www.ahec.hawaii.edu](http://www.ahec.hawaii.edu).

Support for state efforts to get expanded federal designations of Health Professions Shortage Areas.

Support for 13 physicians to receive loan repayment for working in underserved areas.

Support for the Hawai'i Ho'okipa Program, a welcoming program for newly arriving providers to get them integrated into the community where they work.

Support training for medical students in rural areas.

Creation of a Rural Health Coordinator at University of Hawai'i that will work with all health students working in rural areas to increase opportunities and track impact of the rural training programs.

Medical malpractice reform (2013).

Although JABSOM has increased its class size over the past several years to the current 70 students per class, we must undertake other means of addressing the healthcare shortage. The activities listed above have been effective in bringing more physicians to Hawai'i as well as situating them in underserved areas.

Continuation of the Physician Workforce Assessment program will cost the physicians of Hawai'i \$60 every other year and will allow for continuation of the above activities as well as capacity to act rapidly when new ideas for solving the physician shortage are identified. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.