



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
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By

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HB 2546 HD2 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AN OUTPATIENT CENTER

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2546 HD2 which makes an appropriation to fund a family medicine outpatient center which will serve as the family medicine office practice training site for the John A. Burns School of Medicine family medicine residency program. Through a public-private partnership, the goal of the project is to build a new accredited Family Medicine Ambulatory Practice and team-based training site at Pali Momi to create a pipeline of primary care physicians for Hawai'i.

At the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns, School Of Medicine (JABSOM) we strive to teach and train high-quality physicians, biomedical scientists, and allied health workers for Hawai'i and the Pacific by providing an opportunity for a medical education previously unavailable to residents of Hawai'i and other Pacific nations. The family medicine outpatient clinic is an integral part of the network of training sites for JABSOM's family medicine residency program. Our mission is to train the next generation of primary care doctors in Hawai'i for Hawai'i. At JABSOM we know that over 80% of students who receive their medical education and complete their residency in Hawai'i stay in Hawai'i. Many of our graduates who have trained in rural communities and on the neighbor islands remain in those areas to practice.

The family medicine clinic will be developed along the lines of the transformed primary care model including the integration of behavioral health, diabetes education, pharmacy practice, and social work at a single site. This provides patients with enhanced access to healthcare services. Obtaining access to appropriate primary care services has become increasingly difficult in Hawai'i. Situating the clinic near Pali Momi creates a

major ambulatory patient care center and training site for future primary care physicians in a location of need. Being located in the 'Aiea/Pearl City area, the facility will serve patients from Central and West O'ahu. With the Pali Momi Medical Center less than one block away, the clinic is in an ideal location for immediate access to acute care as well as clinical care. Additionally, co-locating with the UH Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology clinical practice site allows for comprehensive care of women, infants and families under one roof. This training site also creates the foundation for expanding the number of residency training positions available in Hawai'i so that more graduating JABSOM students will have the opportunity to train and build a practice in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.