



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 30, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.

By

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM,  
Dean and Professor of Medicine  
and

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, Professor,  
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health; Designated Institutional Official  
and Graduate Medical Education Director  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 597 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER FLANDERS, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 597 which seeks consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CHRISTOPHER FLANDERS**, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

The University of Hawai'i System (UH) and its John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) administer two (2) statutes related to graduate medical education (GME) and addressing the severe physician shortage needs in Hawai'i.

- [HRS § 304A-1702] – Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program, was established to formally encompass the administration of UH JABSOM's institutional graduate medical education (GME) program.
- [HRS §§304A-1703, 1704, 1705] – Medical Education Council, was created within UH JABSOM and called "**The Hawai'i Medical Education Council**" (HMEC). HMEC was given the administrative **duties and powers** to:
  - (1) Analyze the State healthcare workforce for the present and future, focusing in particular on the State's need for physicians;
  - (2) Assess the State's healthcare training programs, focusing on UH JABSOM's institutional GME enterprise to determine its ability to meet the workforce needs identified by HMEC;
  - (3) Recommend to the Legislature and UH Board of Regents (BOR) ways in which identified GME and other healthcare training programs can improve and change in order to effectively meet the HMEC assessment;
  - (4) Work with other entities and state agencies, and in consultation with the Legislature and BOR, develop and implement a Plan to ensure the adequate funding of healthcare training programs in the State, with an emphasis on UH JABSOM GME programs;

- (5) Seek funding to implement the funding Plan from all public (county, state and federal government) and private sources;
- (6) Monitor and continue to improve the funding Plan; and,
- (7) Submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of each regular Legislative session.

Per statute, the HMEC is comprised of eight Governor-appointed and Legislature-confirmed individuals and five ex-officio members, including the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine who serves as the Chair. The HMEC is administered by the Designated Institutional Official and Director of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs.

Solving Hawai'i's physician (and health professions) workforce shortage requires multi-sector engagement and ownership, a multi-pronged and longitudinal approach, as well as ideas and resources from the private sector (*i.e., insurers, hospitals, businesses and private health care organizations committed to improving and maintaining healthy citizens and communities*) the public sector (*i.e., primary-, secondary-, and higher education, legislature, Departments of Health and Human Services and Federal agencies*) and the larger communities of Hawai'i.

**Dr. Christopher Flanders** is the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Medical Association and he would be an excellent representative for a Representative of the Health Professionals Community, as required by the Charter. He brings with him personal practice experience from the neighbor islands and leadership experience of the Hawai'i Medical Association. He is highly committed to finding short- and long-term collaborative strategies that help with physician development, recruitment and retention.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.