



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, April 18, 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 722 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical  
Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALLEN HIXON, for a term to  
expire 06-30-2021.

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

The University of Hawai'i (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. Allen Hixon** is a primary care physician, Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine for our medical school, and has a wide range of experience working with the various hospital systems in Hawai'i. As a doctor, he understands the need for training future physicians of Hawai'i, especially as we are faced with anticipated physician shortages largely affecting primary care. Dr. Hixon has served on this council for the last four years and is committed to health workforce development and the expansion of physician training including to our neighbor islands.

His input would greatly benefit the Council, whose charge is to ensure that planning and medical education training meets the needs of the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.