Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 1:15 p.m.

By:

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and
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Health; Designated Institutional Official and Graduate Medical Education Director
John A. Burns School of Medicine
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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.