



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

By

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and

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GM 546 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, gubernatorial nominee, WILLIAM DUBBS, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the Governor's nominee, Dr. William Dubbs, for consideration and appointment to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (HMEC).

Dr. Dubbs was appointed Chief of Staff at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System on September 16, 2007. He received his medical degree in 1975 from the University of Nebraska, completed an internship and residency at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, received board certification in surgery from the American Board of Surgery in 1989 and practiced as a cardiothoracic surgeon and also as a primary care provider in rural, Indian Health Service and VA sites on the continental US. Dr. Dubbs is highly committed to the care of Hawai'i's veterans and has been a longstanding partner with JABSOM. Clinical training of medical students, residents, and fellows in Family Medicine, Psychiatry and Geriatrics occur in VA facilities throughout the State of Hawai'i. These training sites and especially those on the neighbor islands are critical experiences that make it more likely that our future physicians will be comfortable practicing in areas of high-need.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of the Governor's nomination of Dr. Dubbs.