



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Higher Education Committee

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by

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HB 669 – Making an Appropriation for University of Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Simulation Resource Laboratories

Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 669. This bill appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to establish a dedicated network of healthcare workforce simulation resource laboratories on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii for cross-disciplinary workforce education and training. Addressing this healthcare workforce need is congruent, of course, with one of our four UH System strategic objectives, improving the quality and quantity of the State's workforce.

During our nine-month long “stocktaking” and biennium budget request formulation process, the UH Systemwide Nursing Consortium requested \$6.0 million in additional funding during the 2007-2009 biennium.

We recommended, and the Board of Regents approved in September, a request of \$3.3 million for this purpose.

Subsequently, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing completed its education capacity and workforce demand analysis. Not surprisingly, it concluded that UH's ability to supply sufficient nurses would fall short of anticipated demand. The Hawai'i Association of Healthcare Organizations in collaboration with members of the UH Systemwide Nursing Consortium formulated a funding recommendation in response, and presented it most recently to some members of the Legislature in an informational briefing held January 3. That recommendation called for \$10.2 million in funding for this bill. Subsequently, the bill, as introduced, requests \$12 million in funding.

Our protocol for initiatives that arise after our biennium budget process has concluded calls for these initiatives to be vetted with our chancellors, and then via them with President McClain. While some members of the Consortium say that they initiated these discussions with their respective chancellors, the chancellors themselves cannot confirm this. The President was not consulted by the consortium or any chancellors before this funding initiative was made public.

Should the Legislature decide to respond to this request for additional funding, we would request that it do so only after fully funding our Board of Regents-approved budget. To do otherwise would compromise the integrity of our budgeting process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and your continued support of the University of Hawaii.