



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Friday, March 20, 2015 at 8:45 am
By
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And
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HCR 192/HR 127 – REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE IN HAWAII

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i offers these comments on HCR 192 and HR 127 which requests the Director of Health to convene a task force to address the physician shortage in Hawai'i.

Much of the research and strategy development to address the physician shortage are already ongoing as part of Act 18, SSLH 2009 and Act 186, SSLH 2012 through the physician workforce assessment. Additionally, the Hawai'i Medical Education Counsel's (HMEC) legislation and existing productive group has extensively studied this area and provides a report of its work to the Legislature yearly. As the resolutions cite the difficulties in having foreign medical students become licensed in Hawai'i as the rationale for forming the task force, perhaps HMEC would be the appropriate body to conduct the study. We suggest that an appropriation be made to cover the costs of administering the task force and conducting the study.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.