UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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by

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SB 50, SD 1 Relating to AIDS Research

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Ostrander and I currently serve as the Interim Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I wish to express my support for the intent of SB 50, SD 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities of the University as expressed in our Board of Regents-approved Executive Biennium Budget.

SB 50 SD1 proposes to provide funding for the Hawaii AIDS clinical research program at JABSOM. We appreciate the fact that this measure would address a critical public health program. However, we must emphasize that there are other needs contained in our UH budget request that deserve consideration as well – and have been affirmed through the review process of our University administrators, Board of Regents, and Governor.

The funds requested in the Biennium Budget are crucial to JABSOM's fulfillment of its mission to train physicians to serve Hawai'i and conduct research to improve the lives of our people. We cannot responsibly advocate proposals that would diminish the amount of resources needed to operate our School and execute its mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.