



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
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By

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And

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HB 873 – RELATING TO TEACHING HOSPITALS

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 873 which would appropriate funds to the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to study the impact and feasibility of creating a teaching hospital on West Hawai'i.

There is a growing need for an additional hospital in West Hawai'i in light of the increasing population in the area and the numbers of tourists as well as local residents visiting the county. Access to timely and appropriate health care for West Hawai'i continues to be a concern.

The workforce studies conducted by JABSOM indicate that Hawai'i is nearly 800 physicians short (across all disciplines) when compared to national norms. This number has been steadily rising over the years and is predicted to increase as more physicians reach retirement age. However, it has been shown that physicians who train in Hawai'i remain here to practice. 80% of physicians who received their medical degree and completed their residency training at JABSOM have stayed in Hawai'i which is the highest in the nation. The addition of a teaching hospital in West Hawai'i would provide an additional training site for our local students who may potentially practice here.

JABSOM agrees that a feasibility study for a teaching hospital in West Hawai'i would be valuable. The study should be undertaken in conjunction with leadership from the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation and with input from other important community partners so that a meaningful outcome may be achieved.

JABSOM supports HB 873 provided it does not adversely affect UH priorities as set in our budget request.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.