



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

By

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And

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HB 1089 HD1 – RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee:

HB 1089 HD1 requests the Department of Health to conduct a study as to the feasibility of establishing a pilot program to provide state financial support to Hawai'i residents to attend a college of medicine in exchange for a commitment to practice medicine in Hawai'i after graduation. The University of Hawai'i is committed to providing opportunities for students from Hawai'i to become physicians and to increase the number of physicians in Hawai'i to help address the growing physician shortage in Hawai'i. We **support** the current version of HB 1089 HD1.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has at its heart, a mission to train highly qualified physicians who will serve the people of Hawai'i by providing excellent healthcare. Workforce analyses have demonstrated that the medical students most likely to practice medicine in Hawai'i are those who have lived most of their lives in our state and have family ties that serve as an inducement to remain in Hawai'i. Thus, to meet its mission, JABSOM must first attract Hawai'i's best college seniors (or previous college graduates) and if accepted, induce these accepted applicants to matriculate at JABSOM. The most effective method to recruit accepted applicants is through scholarships. To that end, JABSOM has crafted a tuition support program that functionally serves as a scholarship and may be awarded for part or all of a student's tuition at JABSOM. In return for tuition support, students are required to practice in Hawai'i after completing the needed additional training for medical licensure and specialty certification. The proposed state funding (as currently described in HB 1089 HD1 for Hawaii students to attend medical school) could be used by JABSOM through its tuition support program for those students who do attend JABSOM.

HB 1089 HD1 provides for a program similar to JABSOM's that could potentially lead to an increase in the size of JABSOM's entering medical school class as is needed to help close the physician shortage gap in Hawai'i. We are in support of the proposed funding as currently described in HB 1089 HD1, given the ability to apply it to the JABSOM incoming class each year and welcome the opportunity to be part of the dialogue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.