



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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And

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SCR 82/SR 59 – ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO STUDY THE IMPACT AND FEASIBILITY OF CREATING
A TEACHING HOSPITAL IN WEST HAWAII

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide **comments** on SCR 82/SR 59. These resolutions seek to have the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) conduct an impact and feasibility study for creating a teaching hospital in West Hawai'i.

There is a growing need for upgrading the health services and related facilities in West Hawai'i in light of the increasing regional population, tourists and Hawai'i residents visiting the county. Collaboration by the University of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Health Services Corporation (along with other appropriate partners) in the development of a teaching hospital in West Hawai'i would help replace aging healthcare facilities in that region and provide an additional training site for JABSOM medical students and residents in graduate medical education programs (such as family medicine and internal medicine) thus encouraging future practice in West Hawai'i.

While 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 include input from other important community partners so that a meaningful outcome may be achieved. Additionally, funding has not been allocated in the resolutions. Without funding, JABSOM would not be able to conduct the type of study contemplated by the resolutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.