



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 3:05 p.m.

By

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And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
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#### SB 1107 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide COMMENTS on SB 1107 which would establish a medical education liaison position within the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to support programs that utilize a team of medical specialists to support primary care providers and other health care professionals through mentorship and guidance.

JABSOM supports the intent of SB 1107 and appreciates the efforts of programs that bolster medical education and help to improve healthcare delivery especially to underserved and remote communities in Hawai'i. Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) is an independent organization operating under the umbrella of the State Rural Health Association a nonprofit entity that receives federal funding. The administrative functions of ECHO are performed by the State Rural Health Association which subcontracts with JABSOM for a minimal amount to provide topic expertise, recruit speakers, and facilitate weekly meetings, among other functions.

In order for JABSOM to perform the tasks outlined in the bill, a dedicated full-time staff position, which is state-funded, would be required. This would enable the medical education liaison to concentrate on building relationships with healthcare partners throughout the state, planning and organizing educational training opportunities as well as collecting and analyzing outcome data. Importantly, the medical liaison would also be able to coordinate mentorships between practicing providers and providers newly entering the profession.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.