



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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SB 1441 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE TRANSITION OF THE OAHU REGIONAL
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FROM THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments by testifying on this measure, which repeals the transfer of the O'ahu Regional Health Care System from the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to the Department of Health (DOH).

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is the landowner under which the Leahi Hospital is located. A facility of HHSC and its O'ahu Region, Leahi Hospital has been located on UH property under a long-established lease. When Act 212 (2021) was considered by the Legislature in 2021, the UH acknowledged its support of the contemplated transfer, because both HHSC and DOH wanted the transfer to occur and it made sense for either agency.

The UH is supportive of both agencies and hopes that there is cooperative agreement that is part of a broader plan to preserve and improve health care in Hawai'i and on O'ahu. To the extent that Leahi Hospital is a component of that strategy, the UH wants to support whatever strategy bolsters Leahi Hospital's sustainability. The UH wants for Leahi Hospital and HHSC to be successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.