



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3174 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I AT HILO
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 4, 2006

by

Rose Y. Tseng
Chancellor
University of Hawai`i at Hilo

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Chair Waters and Member of the Committee:

As is true throughout the United States, there is a shortage of pharmacists in Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Yet Hawai'i is one of only 5 states without a pharmacy school. House Bill 3174 provides support for the creation of an accreditable College of Pharmacy to serve the citizens of the state. As the demand for pharmacy education has increased nationally, it appears that the matriculation of Hawai`i residents at mainland pharmacy programs has been stable or declining in recent years. Moreover, students from Hawai'i encounter very high out-of-state tuition (often as high as \$32,000 per year) on the mainland which discourages Hawai`i residents from entering the profession.

The mission of the University of Hawai`i clearly defines health sciences education as a focus. A pharmacy program would be congruent with this mission. Pharmacy education is spatially distributed with the first two years consisting largely of traditional classroom education and the second two years being progressively more concentrated on clinical education at remote sites. Because of this spatial distribution of pharmacy education, it is not necessary to have an urban location for the College. UH-Hilo, with its focus on science education and with the availability of space for development, is an excellent place to establish such a College.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Executive Supplemental Budget.