



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

January 30, 2007

by

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Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 202, Relating to Telepsychiatry:

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Gary Ostrander, currently serving as the Interim Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I wish to express support for the intent of HB 202, appropriating funds for the expansion of the UH telepsychiatry project, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as expressed in our Board of Regents-approved Executive Biennium Budget.

The current telepsychiatry project now serves Maui and Moloka'i, and its expansion would provide opportunities to other Hawaiian Islands. We appreciate the fact that this measure would provide much-needed resources for a critical public health program. But we must emphasize that there are other needs contained in our UH budget request that deserve consideration as well – and have been affirmed through the review process of our University administrators, Board of Regents, and Governor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.