



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 30, 2007

by

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education &
Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 212, HD 2, SD 1, Relating to Health Care

Chair Baker, Vice Tsutsui, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Ostrander and I currently serve as the Interim Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I wish to express my support for HB 212, HD 2, SD 1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health to assist the development and maintenance of a statewide comprehensive health care workforce map and database that assesses health care workforce staffing needs and to develop a plan to ensure future health care workforce needs are met.

The data collected from this program is essential to understanding our workforce needs and to effectively address Hawai'i's severe shortage of health care workers, especially on the neighbor islands and in rural areas.

A fully staffed, well-trained health care workforce is a key component to providing quality health care to all Hawai'i residents. Our economics program at the Mānoa campus as well as the John A. Burns School of Medicine stand ready to be of assistance to carry out this important project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.