



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health

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by

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HB 220, Relating to Torts

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno 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 am writing in strong support of HB 220 Relating to Torts.

This bill will implement tort reform in Hawai'i, placing reasonable limits on the medical malpractice exposure of health care providers in Hawai'i. Enactment of this proposal would help solve critical community problems – the shortage of physicians in crucial specialties and the high cost of malpractice insurance to hospitals and health care providers.

Patient care has been seriously compromised due to Hawai'i's lack of tort reform. For example obstetrician-gynecologists are leaving obstetrics and new graduates are not choosing this field; orthopedic surgeons are leaving Hawai'i and we do not have adequate physician specialty coverage. Malpractice coverage for the UH Medical School is challenging to obtain and a significant financial drain on the School's budget.

This is a matter that deserves your serious consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.