



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health

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by

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HCR 64/HR 44, Urging the University of Hawaii to Develop a Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Degree Program within the University of Hawaii System

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, 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 opposition to HCR 64 and HR 44, which urge development of a Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Degree Program at the UH. As significant as these proposed degree programs are, they do not fall among the priorities of the University as expressed in our Board of Regents-approved Executive Biennium Budget.

There are many needs of JABSOM and the UH, and a lack of adequate resources to fulfill them all; furthermore, there has not been a documented workforce assessment that supports the need for a degree program in Physical and Occupational Therapy.

The funds requested in the Biennium Budget are crucial to JABSOM's fulfillment of its mission to train physicians to serve Hawai'i and conduct research to improve the lives of our people. We cannot responsibly advocate proposals that would diminish the amount of resources needed to operate our School and execute its mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.