



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 20, 2008 at 3:30 pm

by
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and
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HB 2519, HD2 Relating to Health Care

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Unfortunately, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can only support the intent of the bill at this time because of our pressing priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance and health and safety issues, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. We are grateful to the Legislature's attention to these needs. We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following substantive information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

It is appropriate to consider medical school student loan repayments and physician and dentist stipends for doctors that commit to serving in the rural/underserved areas of the State of Hawai'i and agree to serve as first responders for the citizens of our state.

Provisions should be included if a participant chooses to leave prior to their commitment. It is not clear how such contingencies will be addressed and they could prove to be administratively problematic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.