



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health and Senate Committee on Education

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and

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HCR 138, HD2 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE’S TELEHEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII’S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

Chair Ige, Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

We support HCR 138, HD2 as the proposed legislation serves to address a critical growing shortage of available healthcare resources throughout the State of Hawai‘i. Telemedicine and Telehealth solutions offer the potential to leverage scarce healthcare resources across geographic and other boundaries which limit access to care for citizens of Hawai‘i. This legislation will help build the alliances necessary for effective use of Telemedicine solutions for this imperative to improve access to care in our State.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) are uniquely positioned to spearhead this effort to convene a task force that will inform the legislature regarding opportunities, strategies, barriers, and recommendations for Telemedicine. The Telehealth Research Institute at JABSOM has the necessary expertise, mission, and experience to execute this legislation. The University will enhance its ability to fulfill its commitment to improving health and meeting health care needs for the citizens of Hawai‘i. We are encouraged by the trust and opportunity for JABSOM that our neighbor Island communities are expressing in this concurrent resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.