



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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and

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HB 124 RELATING TO HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 124 to address the shortage of health professionals in underserved rural communities in the State through the continued support of the Hawaii Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of the bill only if it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request, most notably in health and safety and repairs and maintenance issues. Addressing these urgent needs is critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawaii. 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.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) and the UHM School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene is privileged to provide the home for the Hawai'i Quentin Burdick rural health interdisciplinary training program. The primary purpose of the program is to partner with rural underserved communities, health organizations, and educational institutions to enhance the health of rural communities by identifying relevant health issues and by recruiting students from a variety of disciplines who in the future would provide comprehensive, coordinated, cost-effective, and culturally appropriate services to address the health concerns of rural communities.

The program began in Hawaii as the Quentin N. Burdick Program with funding by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration. Since Spring 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature has approved funding that allows the program to continue.

The University of Hawai'i Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports a collaborative approach to addressing the healthcare provider needs of Hawai'i and looks forward to our continued partnership with the legislature and community.

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.