



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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HCR 17 SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING TO ESTABLISH A BEACON COMMUNITY ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) College of Pharmacy, thank you for the opportunity to support HCR 17. The Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. This program will provide funding to communities to build and strengthen their health information technology (IT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities to demonstrate the vision of the future where hospitals, clinicians, and patients are meaningful users of health IT and together the community achieves measureable improvements in health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health.

The UHH College of Pharmacy is the lead applicant organization for the Hawai'i County Beacon Community Consortium (HCBCC) application that was submitted on January 29. In addition to the College of Pharmacy, the stakeholders in this consortium application include the Hawai'i County acute care hospitals, federally qualified health centers, Hui Malama Ola Na Oiwai, East Hawai'i IPA, Mayor's Office, HMSA, the Hawai'i Health Information Exchange (HHIE), and many other stakeholders committed to demonstrating the Beacon vision in Hawai'i County. If awarded, this grant would fund approximately \$9,000,000 in health information technology for Hawai'i County and create and fund approximately 15 new jobs in Hawai'i County for a three-year period. Most importantly, this would infuse the capacity and capital needed to produce island-wide improvements in health and healthcare and would serve as a model for the use of health IT in rural communities throughout the United States.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.