Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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by
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HCR 17      SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I AT HILO’S COLLEGE OF
PHARMACY IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING TO
ESTABLISH A BEACON COMMUNITY ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAI`I

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 Oiwi, 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.