



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 902 HD1 RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Nakashima and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of this bill to alleviate the shortage of physicians in Hawai'i, especially those in our rural communities, including the neighbor islands.

HB 902 HD1 creates a loan program for medical students who work in rural areas of the State. Given the importance of addressing the workforce shortage and the reality of rising tuition costs, such programs are needed to complement our other efforts to expand the physician workforce. Future bills should also seek to address educational support for Nurse Practitioners as well.

We believe support for administration of any such program (to include loan officer staff, administrator, collections personnel, overhead, etc) must be provided along with actual funds for the loans. The School's overall operating budget must not be taxed by any such new program.

In summary, we support the measure provided that the measure does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Mahalo.