



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
Senate Committee on Education  
Monday, March 21, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

By

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And

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### HB 902 HD2 RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Green and Tokuda and members of the Senate Committees on Health and 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 HD2 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.