



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, March 16, 1:30 p.m.

By  
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And  
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### HB 2232 HD2 RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Health.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports the bill as written in HD2.

JABSOM's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB-GYN) and Women's Health has a policy regarding pelvic exams under anesthesia which is consistent with this measure. Medical students introduce themselves to patients requesting permission to be involved in their care. If a pelvic exam under anesthesia is planned, they request permission to perform the examination. The policy and procedures in effect at this time do require informed consent for the performance of a pelvic exam by a medical student affiliated with JABSOM.

All compensated and non-compensated JABSOM faculty members have been oriented to the policy. All medical students receive training regarding the policy on the first day of their rotation on the clinical service. The policy is included with their orientation paperwork. Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women and Children and The Queen's Medical Center, where our physicians conduct training, have both received the policy and it has been reviewed by their administrative and executive medical groups to ensure hospital and medical school policies are concordant.

This year a randomly selected group of women were questioned post-operatively and asked if a medical student was involved in their care. If they answered affirmatively, they were questioned regarding this policy. In all cases the patient stated the medical student had approached the patient, and informed the patient they would be participating in the patient's care including performing a pelvic exam, if such an exam was required for diagnostic purposes or clinical care.

The OB-GYN rotation may be the only time some medical students are exposed to women's health, and it may be their only opportunity to perform pelvic exams before obtaining a medical license. Many will go on to other disciplines in medicine. Being able to perform a pelvic exam is a necessary skill for a physician. Performing a pelvic exam while a patient is anesthetized is a superb learning experience, as the patient is fully relaxed and the intra-abdominal organs are easier to examine. We know that many of our JABSOM graduates practice medicine in Hawai'i after they complete their training. It is important that we train the best physicians possible for our state and optimize their opportunities to perform pelvic exams, while respecting a patient's right to informed decision making prior to such an exam.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.