Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 3 p.m.

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HB 2707, HD1 – RELATING TO MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2707, HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. This measure would authorize units within the UH Manoa, such as the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center and a unit within the UH Hilo, the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, to conduct marijuana-related research and testing.

With the implementation of the medical marijuana dispensary program in the State, detailed monitoring and research from a medical perspective conducted by an independent scholarly body would provide valuable insight into the program and may enhance the success of the dispensary system. UH Mānoa and UH Hilo are committed to working with the Department of Health and other partners for the benefit of our communities in this emerging field.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.