



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

SB 2066 SD2

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education

March 16, 2004

by

Sam Callejo  
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Statement of

Sam Callejo  
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before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 16, 2004

State Capitol, Conference Room 309, 2:00 p.m.

in consideration of

**SB 2066 SD2**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Tamayo and Committee members.

The University of Hawaii (UH) supports SB 2066 SD2, which amends §304-121, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by deleting the requirement to establish the Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund in the State Treasury and clarifying that this fund shall be administered by the University, rather than the Medical Education Council (MEC). Currently, none of the University's special funds are established in the State Treasury or administered independently. Therefore, this measure will allow the Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund to be established and administered in a manner that is consistent with other University Special Funds.

As a background, Act 181 of 2003 established the Hawaii Medical Education Council, which is charged to coordinate and govern graduate medical education in the state. The MEC, with both public and private memberships, is charged with assessing the status of Hawaii's current health care workforce and projecting the state's future needs for health care professionals, analyzing the capability of Hawaii's existing health care training programs to meet these needs, and developing a plan to ensure that adequate funding is available to train Hawaii's health care workforce. It would explore federal funding through Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health programs. As you may know, Hawaii is facing a rapidly worsening shortage of nearly every kind of health care worker, including physicians. This shortage has resulted from the aging of our health care workforce and the lack of expansion of health care training programs in Hawaii. In addition, there has been an increasing demand for health care services brought on by the aging of our population and the expanded capabilities of modern biomedical science and technologies. The Hawaii Medical Education Special Fund would permit the council to carry out its responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.