

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Finance

April 3, 2006

by Dr. Gary K. Ostrander Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2364 SD2, HD2 – RELATING TO ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2364 SD2 HD2, which would repeal optional, exclusionary insurance provision for injuries sustained by insured persons as a result of intoxication from alcohol or narcotics and appropriates funds to establish the Screening, Briefing, Intervention, Referral, and Treatment program in emergency rooms to the John A Burns School of Medicine.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully recommends that such a program be housed in a different state agency, and not at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. We are not equipped to manage such a program and it is not within the core mission of the School. We hope that the committee will revise the bill to allow a different state agency to administer the program, as was the case in the original version of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.