



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance

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by

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SB 1115, SD 2 Relating to Perinatal Care

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Ostrander and I currently serve as the Interim Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I wish to express support for the intent of SB 1115, SD 2, providing funds for the operation of a perinatal clinic, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as expressed in our Board of Regents-approved Executive Biennium Budget.

We appreciate the fact that this measure would provide much-needed resources for a critical public health program by providing perinatal care to pregnant women with a history of substance abuse.

However, we must emphasize that there are other needs contained in our UH budget request that deserve consideration as well – and have been affirmed through the review process of our University administrators, Board of Regents, and Governor. The funds requested in the Biennium Budget are crucial to JABSOM's fulfillment of its mission to train physicians to serve Hawai'i and conduct research to improve the lives of our people. We cannot responsibly advocate proposals that would diminish the amount of resources needed to operate our School and execute its mission.

The bill as amended proposes to name the Department of Human Services as the expending agency for this program, and we support this provision.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.