UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

SB 2589 Relating to Physicians

Written Testimony for the
Senate Committee on Health

February 4, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education &
Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Unfortunately, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can only support the intent of the bill at this time because of our pressing priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance and health and safety issues, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. We are grateful for the Legislature's attention to these needs.

We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following substantive information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine is sensitive to the needs of rural communities regarding access to health care. However, we do not feel that this bill offers an appropriate solution to the problem.

Of primary concern is that the University has no mechanism or authority to monitor such a program which would place extensive administrative hardship on our various offices to track individuals through residency training, etc., and to administer such a loan. With our current capacity of staffing and resources, we would not be able to develop and maintain such a program at the appropriate level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.