



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health

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By

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and

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SCR 158 – ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE INTERIM TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRAINING AND RECRUITING PLAN FOR RURAL AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green and members of the Committee:

We are in support of the intent of SCR 158, which is to enhance the physician workforce in the State of Hawai'i through greater post-graduate (residency) training on the Island of Hawai'i.

Because there is one existing, accredited rural-based family medicine residency based on Oahu, the optimal model for supplemental residency training on the Big Island remains to be determined. Determination of the optimal model will be dependent upon financial resources available and hospital training opportunities.

It is likely that annual support of the educational component of residency training on the Big Island will be needed. The funding stream for residency training in Hawai'i largely runs through the sponsoring hospital, although the curriculum, accreditation standards, and trainee supervision remain the responsibility of the John A. Burns School of Medicine. Hence, general fund financial support in the form of an annual stipend for related educational support should be directed to the Hilo Medical Center.

Guidance from the advisory committee should focus upon defining training needs for the region, hospital training opportunities, and resources available to support different residency models as viable and sustainable alternatives to the 6 resident per year (for 3 years) fully independent program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.