

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER LAWYERS OF HAWAII IN SUPPORT OF SB NO. 269, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

February 5, 2009

To: Chairperson Jill Tokuda and Chairman David Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (formerly known as CLH*) in Support of S. B. 269.

Our organization has been involved in the issue of shortage of physicians and other health care professionals and providers in rural areas for several years. HAJ wholeheartedly supports this bill as a positive approach in attempting to solve the shortage of health care providers in rural areas, is of the opinion that funds should be appropriated at this time in spite of the current economic situation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. No. 269.

* CLH has changed its name to conform to the name of its national organization the American Association for Justice.