



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And
Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 285 – RELATING TO THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) appreciates the efforts of the legislature and the intent of HB 285, which creates a scholarship program for the medical school. The measure establishes a scholarship for a full course of study at JABSOM in exchange for which the recipient must practice in the state for five (5) years following the completion of the recipient's residency.

There is no doubt that Hawai'i is facing a significant shortage of physicians. This has been effectively documented by the Physician Workforce Assessment and research efforts of Dr. Kelley Withy at JABSOM's Area Health Education Center. According to the study, the gap between doctor need and availability has widened by 20 percent over the past year. Moreover, the large debt medical students now face upon completion of their medical studies discourages many from remaining in Hawaii or practicing in rural areas where the need for physicians is greatest. We believe HB 285 would be helpful in attracting the most qualified students to the field of medicine.

We respectfully offer the following suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the scholarship program:

The five year post-residency practice should be performed in areas in the state that are underserved. This would direct medical care to regions where the need is urgent;

Scholarships should be awarded to students who have expressed interest in areas of practice or specialties for which physician-shortages exist in order to effectively grow the doctors Hawai'i needs

Assigned funding must support an administrative position at JABSOM to enable JABSOM can track the progress of scholarship recipients as well as monitor the program, including any collection efforts that may be necessary;

As retention of such scholarship students in Hawai'i will be enhanced if their residency training is provided in Hawaii, establish additional, separate funding on an annual basis for JABSOM's graduate medical education (GME) program. Such funding should be separate from the medical student scholarship program and would use the Hawai'i Medical Education Special Fund. These funds will be used to support and expand the residency and fellowship programs offered through the JABSOM graduate medical education program.

As the 2015 Annual Report on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council indicates, historically GME funding has come from the federal government and Hawai'i's private teaching hospitals/clinics. However, the changing healthcare financial environment, including implementation of the Affordable Care Act, has limited the capacity of the teaching hospitals/clinics to fund GME training. The JABSOM GME program is a core component of our efforts to train and retain new doctors for Hawai'i.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of our comments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

**HB 285, Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine
House Committee on Higher Education
February 3, 2015, 2:00 PM**

Dear Chairman Choy and Members of the House Higher Education Committee:

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to express my support for HB 285. This legislation would help to encourage our local students to serve in the state of Hawaii upon completion of their residency through a scholarship program at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM).

Since 2013, the skilled physician workforce at Queen's has grown by 24 percent. We already partner with JABSOM in a number of areas, including through the cancer consortium and by providing training and research opportunities for students. This scholarship would prove beneficial to many of the aspiring physicians that we see on our campus year after year.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my support for this scholarship and hope you will vote favorably on HB 285.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



House Committee on Higher Education

The Hon. Isaac W. Choy, Chair

The Hon. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 285
Relating to the John A. Burns School of Medicine
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
February 3, 2015, 2:00 pm, Room 309

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 285, establishing a scholarship fund that will attract and retain physicians in Hawaii.

The state of Hawaii has one a physician workforce that is one of the oldest in the nation, causing an increasing shortage in the state of primary care providers. This bill aims to alleviate that by providing scholarship monies to qualified individuals that are willing to stay and practice medicine in the state of Hawaii for a period of time thereafter.

As this is an area of increasing need for Hawaii, the HPCA supports House Bill 285 and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 3:31 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: chrisbeaule@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB285 on Feb 3, 2015 14:00PM

LATE

HB285

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HED on Feb 3, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Beaule	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Given the dire financial straits that UH finds itself in, particularly at the Manoa flagship campus, I find this bill to be shortsighted and to pose a real financial threat to the educational mission of the university. As it currently stands, undergraduate tuition is being diverted to pay the exorbitant salaries and benefits of the faculty and staff of the Cancer Center, JABSOM, SOEST, and other research units, which produce significantly less tuition revenue than they absorb. JABSOM is able to attract a very competitive applicant pool, and is able to charge higher tuition than other units at Manoa, in part because its graduates will earn much higher salaries upon graduation and because local students are often quite anxious to stay in state for their training. To absorb five years of tuition means that JABSOM will need an even greater share of the tuition dollars generated by UHM than it currently takes. And that in turn directly threatens the ability of the rest of the university, especially the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, which produces the lions share of tuition revenue and receives a shamefully small share of that back. How are we to continue to provide core classes in languages, writing, math, science, the arts, cultural competencies, and other subjects to BOTH pre-med and other majors, if our basic support is eroded even further than it is? We simply cannot function at current funding levels, and even those are under continued threat. This bill will make it intolerable for the rest of the university system, and it is unnecessary. We do not suffer from a lack of qualified candidates for admission to JABSOM, and their grads are perfectly capable of staying right here in Hawaii after their residencies. This bill in effect funnels money from the rest of the state's college students into the pockets of local doctors.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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