



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

By  
Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean and Professor  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
and  
Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 605 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TODD SETO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023.

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 605, which seeks consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Todd Seto for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Dr. Todd Seto focuses on non-invasive cardiology and outcomes research. He has received continuous research funding from the National Institutes of Health since 2001 and maintains an active research program evaluating innovative ways to improve the quality of cardiovascular care and decrease racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes. As a current member on the HMEC, Dr. Seto will bring a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge to the council. Dr. Seto is the director of medical education at The Queen's Medical Center, which is one of our major training sites for our residents and fellows. His role on HMEC is as a representative of a "different hospital at which accredited graduate medical education programs are conducted," as required by charter.

The University of Hawai'i System (UH) and its John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) administer two (2) statutes related to graduate medical education (GME) and addressing the severe physician shortage needs in Hawai'i.

- [HRS § 304A-1702] – Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program, was established to formally encompass the administration of UH JABSOM's institutional graduate medical education (GME) program.
- [HRS §§304A-1703, 1704, 1705] – Medical Education Council, was created within UH JABSOM and called "The Hawai'i Medical Education Council" (HMEC). HMEC was given the administrative duties and powers to:
  - (1) Analyze the State healthcare workforce for the present and future, focusing in particular on the State's need for physicians;

- (2) Assess the State's healthcare training programs, focusing on UH JABSOM's institutional GME enterprise to determine its ability to meet the workforce needs identified by HMEC;
- (3) Recommend to the Legislature and UH Board of Regents (BOR) ways in which identified GME and other healthcare training programs can improve and change in order to effectively meet the HMEC assessment;
- (4) Work with other entities and state agencies, and in consultation with the Legislature and BOR, develop and implement a Plan to ensure the adequate funding of healthcare training programs in the State, with an emphasis on UH JABSOM GME programs;
- (5) Seek funding to implement the funding Plan from all public (county, state and federal government) and private sources;
- (6) Monitor and continue to improve the funding Plan; and,
- (7) Submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of each regular Legislative session.

Per statute, the HMEC is comprised of eight Governor-appointed and Legislature-confirmed individuals and five ex-officio members, including the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine who serves as the Chair. The HMEC is administered by the Designated Institutional Official and Director of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs.

Solving Hawai'i's physician (and health professions) workforce shortage requires multi-sector engagement and ownership, a multi-pronged and longitudinal approach, as well as ideas and resources from the private sector (i.e., insurers, hospitals, businesses and private health care organizations committed to improving and maintaining healthy citizens and communities) the public sector (i.e., primary-, secondary-, and higher education, legislature, Departments of Health and Human Services and Federal agencies) and the larger communities of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony for Dr. Seto.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Higher Education

From: Whitney Limm MD, Executive Vice President and Chief Physician Executive, The  
Queen's Health Systems

Date: May 14, 2020

Hrg: Senate Committee on Higher Education Hearing; Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 3:00 PM in  
Room 229

Re: Support for GM605 Gubernatorial Nominee Todd Seto to the Hawaii Medical Education  
Council

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals and more than 1,500 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Todd Seto's gubernatorial nomination to the Hawaii Medical Education Council. Dr. Seto is an outstanding clinician, teacher, and researcher. Dr. Seto's leadership and collaboration have helped bring together hospital and physician teams to address issues, ultimately resulting in positive patient outcomes. For example, Dr. Seto established the Center for Clinical Outcomes Research (CORE) here at Queen's and has published 33 papers over the past five years in nationally recognized publications including the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Journal of Hypertension, and The Journal of the American Medical Association.

For the last 18 years, Dr. Seto has been an attending cardiologist to our unserved, uninsured, and underinsured patients in our Queen Emma Clinic, which also serves as a major training and teaching site for our University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine students and resident physicians. Dr. Seto is also the Director of Academic Affairs and Research at Queen's and in 2017 was voted Hospital-based Physician of the Year.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Todd Seto to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.

*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.*

**GM-605**

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 3:08:13 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/19/2020 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: