



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

By

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and

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GM 17 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON VITOUSEK, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the Governor's nominee, Dr. Sharon Vitousek, for consideration and appointment to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (HMEC).

Dr. Vitousek, an Internal Medicine/primary care physician living in Kamuela, has been a community leader on the island of Hawai'i for many years. She has championed access to medical care, collaborative solutions to the physician and health provider shortage, and improvement in health outcomes for the people of the neighbor islands and across Hawai'i.

Dr. Vitousek is particularly knowledgeable in the area of health workforce needs in rural areas and has been a strong proponent of graduate medical education training on neighbor islands. During her four-year tenure on this council, Dr. Vitousek has been extremely dedicated and informed about medical education issues in our State. She is committed to Hawai'i and to our medical community and brings a depth of experience that would greatly benefit the Board.

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 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 the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of the Governor's nomination of Sharon Vitousek.