Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance

March 29, 2007

by

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education &
Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

SB 1115, SD 2  Relating to Perinatal Care

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Ostrander and I currently serve as the Interim Dean of the John A.
Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

I wish to express support for the intent of SB 1115, SD 2, providing funds for the
operation of a perinatal clinic, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely
impact priorities as expressed in our Board of Regents-approved Executive Biennium
Budget.

We appreciate the fact that this measure would provide much-needed resources for a
critical public health program by providing perinatal care to pregnant women with a
history of substance abuse.

However, we must emphasize that there are other needs contained in our UH budget
request that deserve consideration as well – and have been affirmed through the review
process of our University administrators, Board of Regents, and Governor. The funds
requested in the Biennium Budget are crucial to JABSOM’s fulfillment of its mission to
train physicians to serve Hawai‘i and conduct research to improve the lives of our
people. We cannot responsibly advocate proposals that would diminish the amount of
resources needed to operate our School and execute its mission.

The bill as amended proposes to name the Department of Human Services as the
expending agency for this program, and we support this provision.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.