



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
April 1, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

By
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM, Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 239, SD2, HD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOBACCO SETTLEMENT SPECIAL FUND

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Finance. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 239, SD2, HD2. As originally drafted SB 239, SD2, HD2 would have extended the sunset date on tobacco master settlement agreement monies for continued use by the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2015.

We support and reinforce the version of HB 1330, HD1 (the companion bill to SB 239) as passed by the House and submitted to the Senate.

JABSOM agrees that supporting public health and neighbor island residencies are worthy endeavors and appreciates the Legislature's concerns. In addition to educating doctors who care for patients with tobacco-related illnesses as well as incorporating tobacco prevention programs into its courses of study, JABSOM is already engaged in programs such as residency rotations on the neighbor islands, preparatory studies for students who are socially and financially disadvantaged, and training speech pathologists locally. Also, UH Mānoa is engaged in planning for a School of Global and Community Health.

It is noted that the percentages by which JABSOM's allocation of the tobacco funds will be reduced beginning in fiscal year 2012 are not specified in the current version of SB 239, SD1, HD2. Accordingly, we are unable to assess the fiscal implications of the proposed reduction in funding in the measure. Therefore, we are not able to fully support SB 239, SD2, HD2 in its current form, and respectfully ask that this Committee consider HB 1330, HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.