



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, Dean  
Lee Ellen Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, FAAFP  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & DIO  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 806 – Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JUDY KOVELL, 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 806 and the nomination of Dr. Judy Kovell to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (Council).

Dr. Kovell is the Designated Institutional Official and Director of Medical Education of the Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). She offers over 16 years of high level leadership experience and is the former Program Director of the Psychiatry Residency Program.

Tripler Army Medical Center has been a long-time and valuable partner of JABSOM. JABSOM and TAMC continue to build collaborations, meeting throughout the year, and Dr. Kovell plays an active role. Although the trainees generally have military commitments, a significant percentage of these trainees return to Hawai'i to practice. After retiring from military service, many stay and join the JABSOM faculty. Dr. Kovell's leadership experiences, passion for teaching and commitment to serve the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific will make her a valuable asset for the Council.

We stand in strong support of Dr. Kovell's nomination and urge this Committee to confirm her appointment to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.