



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
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by

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SB 628 – RELATING TO THE TRANSITION OF THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FROM THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports Senate Bill (SB) No. 628, Relating to the Transition of the O'ahu Regional Health Care System from the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) into the Department of Health (DOH). This bill lays out a framework for moving the assets and the O'ahu-based functions of HHSC into the DOH. The bill explicitly identifies the UH as involved in aspects of the transition. The UH does not have any objections to the concept proposed in the bill, but recognize that much of the issues will be in the details.

The UH has a number of academic programs throughout its various campuses of relevance to the health care industry. SB No. 628 contemplates that the UH could partner and participate with the DOH on repositioning services offered by HHSC and/or redevelopment opportunities at Lē'ahi in advancing possible health services on the site. The UH does not object with this concept and believes we can be a very good partner in those regards.

The UH is the recorded landowner of the parcel where Lē'ahi Hospital is located. The UH also owns other parcels adjacent or near to Lē'ahi Hospital and Kapi'olani Community College. Under the current arrangement, UH has leased the Lē'ahi parcel to HHSC at no cost for decades. While the UH would not intend to displace HHSC from the Lē'ahi Hospital property, if HHSC were to no longer use the property, the UH would expect that any new use would be consistent and compatible with our nearby campus and properties. Additionally, the UH's strategic objective for real estate expects that non-UH use of real property will be to increase lease revenue, increase utility of the property for the UH, and/or increase broader academic opportunities. At this point, we are content that SB No. 628 recognizes and accommodates inclusion of UH's interest and potential returns in each of these regards.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.