



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
February 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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SB 1369 – RELATING TO THE REPEAL OF ACT 212, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII
2021, AS AMENDED BY ACT 150, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2022

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, which repeals the statute that requires the transfer of the O'ahu Regional Health care system from the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to the Department of Health (DOH).

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is the landowner under which the Lē'ahi Hospital is located. A facility of HHSC and its O'ahu Region, Lē'ahi Hospital has been located on UH property under a long-established lease. When Act 212 (2021) was considered by the Legislature in 2021, the UH acknowledged its support of the contemplated transfer, because both HHSC and DOH wanted the transfer to occur and it made sense for either agency.

The UH is supportive of both agencies and hopes that there is cooperative agreement that repeal of this statute is part of a broader plan to preserve and improve health care in Hawai'i and on O'ahu. To the extent that Lē'ahi Hospital is a component of that strategy, the UH wants to support whatever strategy bolsters Lē'ahi Hospital's sustainability. The UH wants for Lē'ahi Hospital and HHSC to be successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.