



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 Higher Education
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 3:05 p.m.

By

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John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
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SB 557 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide COMMENTS on SB 557 which requires the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to direct Huli Au Oli to conduct a study on physician and dentist recruitment and retention to serve the island of Moloka'i.

We appreciate the intent of this measure and sympathize with the plight Moloka'i faces in terms of recruitment and retention of physicians and dentists to the island. This is a complex issue as there are multiple factors that must be researched such as demographics, economic sustainability, and the availability of infrastructure to support a medical or dental practice, to name a few. A research study of this nature requires coordination across multiple disciplines, institutions, and agencies, including JABSOM.

Additionally, we question the reason the funds are being directed to JABSOM as Huli Au Oli would be conducting the study. It may be more feasible to fund Huli Au Oli directly and allow that entity to conduct the study of physician and dentist recruitment on Moloka'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.