



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

By
Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean and Professor
John A. Burns School of Medicine
and
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 605 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TODD SETO, 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 605, which seeks consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Todd Seto for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Dr. Todd Seto focuses on non-invasive cardiology and outcomes research. He has received continuous research funding from the National Institutes of Health since 2001 and maintains an active research program evaluating innovative ways to improve the quality of cardiovascular care and decrease racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes. As a current member on the HMEC, Dr. Seto will bring a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge to the council. Dr. Seto is the director of medical education at The Queen's Medical Center, which is one of our major training sites for our residents and fellows. His role on HMEC is as a representative of a "different hospital at which accredited graduate medical education programs are conducted," as required by charter.

The University of Hawai'i System (UH) and its John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) administer two (2) statutes related to graduate medical education (GME) and addressing the severe physician shortage needs in Hawai'i.

- [HRS § 304A-1702] – Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program, was established to formally encompass the administration of UH JABSOM's institutional graduate medical education (GME) program.
- [HRS §§304A-1703, 1704, 1705] – Medical Education Council, was created within UH JABSOM and called "The Hawai'i Medical Education Council" (HMEC). HMEC was given the administrative duties and powers to:
 - (1) Analyze the State healthcare workforce for the present and future, focusing in particular on the State's need for physicians;

- (2) Assess the State's healthcare training programs, focusing on UH JABSOM's institutional GME enterprise to determine its ability to meet the workforce needs identified by HMEC;
- (3) Recommend to the Legislature and UH Board of Regents (BOR) ways in which identified GME and other healthcare training programs can improve and change in order to effectively meet the HMEC assessment;
- (4) Work with other entities and state agencies, and in consultation with the Legislature and BOR, develop and implement a Plan to ensure the adequate funding of healthcare training programs in the State, with an emphasis on UH JABSOM GME programs;
- (5) Seek funding to implement the funding Plan from all public (county, state and federal government) and private sources;
- (6) Monitor and continue to improve the funding Plan; and,
- (7) Submit an annual report to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of each regular Legislative session.

Per statute, the HMEC is comprised of eight Governor-appointed and Legislature-confirmed individuals and five ex-officio members, including the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine who serves as the Chair. The HMEC is administered by the Designated Institutional Official and Director of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs.

Solving Hawai'i's physician (and health professions) workforce shortage requires multi-sector engagement and ownership, a multi-pronged and longitudinal approach, as well as ideas and resources from the private sector (i.e., insurers, hospitals, businesses and private health care organizations committed to improving and maintaining healthy citizens and communities) the public sector (i.e., primary-, secondary-, and higher education, legislature, Departments of Health and Human Services and Federal agencies) and the larger communities of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony for Dr. Seto.