



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Higher Education
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by

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HB 850 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 850. This measure would repeal the requirement that the University of Hawai'i prepare an annual report on the Nursing Scholars Program (HRS 304A-3305), Hawai'i Health Corps Program (Act 187, SLH 2012), P-20 Initiative Council (Act 281, SLH 2007), and Construction Academy (HRS 304A-1144).

The Nursing Scholars Program was established to encourage students to pursue graduate study in master's and doctoral programs to prepare them for an academic career in nursing. The School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene has had no additional information to provide since the last report submitted in 2009 and thereby feels this reporting requirement to be obsolete.

Act 187, SLH 2012, established the Hawai'i Health Corps Program to encourage physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to serve in counties having a shortage of physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, with priority given to a rural area county. In 2015, the Legislature found that the Hawai'i Health Corps Revolving Fund was inactive and thus repealed the fund via Act 106, SLH 2015. Without the proper funding provided since enactment of Act 187, the University has been unable to fulfill the reporting requirements set forth by Act 187 and thus finds the reporting requirement unworkable.

Act 281, SLH 2007, provided an appropriation to Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education to provide the impetus to develop the vision and plans for education in Hawai'i for the twenty-first century. The appropriated funds were never released to the University, thereby Hawai'i P-20 did not have the resources to conduct the prescribed meetings or to create a medium of electronic communication, as directed by the Act, making the reporting requirement unworkable.

The Construction Academy began in 2004 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant funded a pilot program between the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges and select O'ahu high schools to prepare students with the skills needed to

pursue careers in the construction industry. The program has long since established itself as an integral part of the pathway for construction-related education. As such, no new relevant information required by section 304A-1144, HRS, has been part of the annual reporting requirement for the past six years and thus has become an unnecessary mandate.

Due to reasons cited above, the various reports have become either unworkable or obsolete to fulfill the reporting requirements and should be repealed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.