



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
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By
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HB 1886 HD1 – RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

HB 1886 HD1 establishes a temporary, five-year Senior Citizen Higher Education Access Pilot Program at the University of Hawai'i systemwide.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of HB 1886 HD1 and its concern for senior citizens' health and pursuit of continuing education or second careers. The measure proposes a senior citizens access pilot program at UH that allows individuals aged sixty years or older to take courses with reduced or free if taken for credit or non-credit.

Currently, seven of the 10 University of Hawai'i campuses have a senior citizen visitor program. Procedures and availability of spaces in classes are determined by each campus. A senior citizen access pilot program for five years across the UH system will entail the other three campuses adopting the best practices from the other seven. The funding identified in the bill will assist greatly with the planning and implementation efforts to implement the program at these campuses. We will need to consult with faculty, campus leaders, and other constituents to assess capacity and community interest in particular subjects. As a System pilot, we will need to examine policy requirements with the UH Board of Regents such as tuition policy, student support services, student data and records, and statutory matters such as Title IX.

The University would support the appropriation of funds contained in this bill, provided that such funding does not come at the expense of funding priorities set by the UH Board of Regents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.