



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee Higher Education
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By

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HB 2604 – RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2604 that appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to grant fund programs organized or sponsored by University of Hawai'i (UH) community colleges or a four-year campus to implement international college experiences for Hawai'i students enrolled at UH.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the language of HB 2604, recognizing the value of international educational opportunities for Hawai'i's students. Education abroad programs have been acknowledged to contribute to students' success and preparation. HB 2604 notes Hawai'i's strong heritage ties to the Asia-Pacific, and studying abroad in these countries exposes students to the vibrant economies and cultures of the region, a benefit to the state. Furthermore, funding for study abroad programs would encourage student participation, and potentially diversify the kinds of students who are able to participate.

Study abroad programs at UH are currently organized at the campus level, and systemwide we have discussed how we might collaborate across campuses to benefit students.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2604.