



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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By
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and
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SB 826 SD2 – RELATING TO THE PUNA DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Both the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the University of Hawai'i Community College System supports SB 826 SD2, to fund a distance learning center in the District of Puna and we look forward to the collaboration between our campuses as we plan for this center.

There is a critical need to strengthen rural outreach, education and economic development in Puna, which is one of the most underserved areas in the state, and also the fastest growing district on Hawai'i Island. As Hawai'i Community College is moving into being a distributed campus with centers in Hilo, Palamanui, North Hawai'i Education and Research Center and potentially Puna, Hawai'i Community College, with collaboration of UH Hilo, is best suited to manage and deliver programs from UH Hilo, Hawai'i CC and other UH campuses as needed.

We support SB 826 SD2 on the condition that any requested funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 826 SD2. Aloha.