



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education, International Affairs and the Arts,
And Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
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By
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SCR 146/SR 68 – REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHILIPPINES-HAWAII TOURISM COLLEGE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM COMPACT

Chair Kahele, Taniguchi, and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and English, and members of the committees:

SCR 146/SR 68 requests the establishment of a Philippines-Hawai'i tourism college student exchange program compact among the University of Hawai'i (UH) Mānoa, West O'ahu, select UH community colleges, and Ilocos Sur Community College and the University of Northern Philippines, and a report before the 2018 Hawai'i Legislature on the number of students participating, assessment of the compact, and recommended legislation to improve the compact.

The University of Hawai'i joins the legislature in recognizing the many contributions of the Filipino immigrants from Ilocos Sur and their descendants since arriving in Hawai'i in 1906. We celebrate the long sister state relationship between Hawai'i and Ilocos Sur, reaching 33 years in 2018, the first sister state established between Hawai'i and a province in the Philippines. The University also congratulates the province of Ilocos Sur on the occasion of its bicentennial anniversary in February 2018.

The University of Hawai'i lauds the intent of SCR 146/SR 68 to strengthen educational ties among our institutions. UH respectfully points out that it is unrealistic to establish, implement, and assess an educational exchange compact within six months.

The UH System Office of the Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy would be willing to participate in an exploratory group with the UH campuses named in SCR 146/SR 68 to examine the feasibility of tourism programs of mutual benefit and to identify academic and resource requirements.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 146/SR 68.