



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education  
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By

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SCR 162 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COORDINATE WITH HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HAWAII AND TO PARTNER WITH DEBATE ORGANIZATIONS IN ORGANIZING EVENTS FOR STUDENTS TO DEBATE ON CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING HAWAII AND THE NATION

Chairs Kidani and Kahele and members of the committees:

SCR 162 notes that debates and debate events develop students skills in speaking and knowledge of public events, and requests the Hawai'i Department of Education work with other groups to organize debates on selected topics at the State Capitol.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the benefits of student debate, but does not support the adoption of SCR 162 at this time due to the uncertainty of both the state and federal budget situations, which would require additional resources to implement and coordinate. The University defers to the Department of Education on these matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.