



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on 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

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

SCR 162 notes that debates and debate events develop 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 due to the necessity of additional resources to implement and coordinate a program, and the uncertainty of both the state and federal budget situations at this time. The University defers to the Department of Education on these matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.