Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
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SB 2328 SD2 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2328 SD2 that establishes the University of Hawai'i open educational resources task force to conduct a comprehensive analysis and evaluation on all general education courses and high attendance courses taught at UH and appropriates funds for an open educational resources pilot project grant program to incentivize faculty to adopt, develop, and implement open educational resources.

The University recognizes the financial burden of the high cost of textbooks on students. Beginning in 2015, our ten campuses have been intentionally investing in Open Educational Resources (OER) by providing workshops, grants, trainings, technology support and opportunities for faculty and staff to promote the adoption, adaption and creation of OER.

The UH community college system already has a very active 7 campus committee managed by Leeward and Kapi'olani that is doing this work, and provides support for faculty and librarians.

The University respectfully submits these comments on SB 2328 SD2 with the intention of clarifying OER and the selection of materials for University courses:

- Page 2, lines 10 – 21: To provide clarification that there are alternatives in addition to OER, UH recommends replacing with:
    - "The legislature further finds that the University of Hawai'i has recognized the financial burden of the high cost of textbooks on students, and since 2015 the ten campuses have been working on reducing the cost of instructional materials by investing in low or zero textbook cost initiatives, including Open Educational Resources (OER), by providing workshops, grants, trainings, technology support and opportunities for faculty and staff to promote the adoption, adaptation and creation of such materials. In addition to OER, several means are available, such as low or zero textbook cost initiatives and alternatives such as placing copies of

publisher produced textbooks on reserve at our libraries, using materials available through library subscriptions, and supporting faculty as they create their own instructional materials. Faculty need to be able to choose the instructional content that is most appropriate for their courses and their students, and be encouraged to adopt the use of low or no-cost instructional material for students, which include OER when possible, although some types of materials, including OER, do not fit all teaching and learning situations, such as in the University's Career and Technical Education courses, professional degrees, and other program areas."

- Pages 4-5:
  - UH recommends that the appointment of a task force include language that makes possible an alternate   "… or a designee …" for a task force member, and that this include the UH Vice President of Information Technology/CIO and the interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs or designees.

- Page 5, line 21 to read:
  - "… identify open educational resources <u>and other alternatives</u> that may be suitable for…"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.