



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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Senate Committee on Education
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By
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SB 2665 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2665. The University of Hawai'i ("University") supports the high-level and overarching vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as presented in this legislation.

The SDGs intersect with key cross-cutting issues in Hawai'i, and acknowledge that none of these goals can be achieved without consideration for the others. The University is in the process of building a statewide directory of Sustainability Scientists, Scholars and Practitioners that will be searchable by SDG, research interest, and other keywords to improve access to subject matter expertise across the spectrum of sustainability, climate change and resiliency issues.

The SDGs can support locally and culturally appropriate implementation of sustainability goals through the *Aloha+ Challenge* (SCR 69), Sustainable Hawai'i, 100 Resilient Cities, Promise to Pae 'Āina, and other efforts. This builds on the recent adoption of the Paris Agreement (Act 32) and the inspiring Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle'a. Progress on Hawai'i's statewide sustainability commitment is being tracked through the online *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard, which the University has supported by providing subject matter expertise throughout its development over the past three years.

As the State of Hawai'i's only public institution of higher education, the University's core mission strongly aligns with SDG #4 Quality Education, which SB 2665 seeks to advance. The University partners with our local communities and other communities around the world to support place-based action that drives global sustainability outcomes, and looks forward to working with the legislature to advance the State's sustainable development goals through quality education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2665.