SB 1419 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai‘i (UH) has comments regarding SB 1419 SD1, Relating to the University of Hawaii. This bill requires the UH to include all long-term leases the University enters into with the intent to purchase as part of its capital improvement projects budget request.

While UH does not have any objections to this requirement, I would note that I believe this bill was driven by a Senator’s special interest on the University’s and UH Foundation’s “Atherton” project. That project includes redevelopment of student housing on a formerly YMCA property and the lease includes an option for the University to purchase the property in the future. However, that is not certain, nor is it University-owned property, nor does it use legislatively appropriated funds.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.