UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1591 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE UNIVERSITY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

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by

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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

    HB 1591 requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare legislation
that establishes the Hawaii State University. The University has concerns
regarding the separation of a public university from the public higher education
system in Hawai‘i.

    Although there are states that have more than one system of higher
education, in a state as small as Hawai‘i there is merit in including all ten
campuses in one system. We gain economies of scale, we enhance our ability to
articulate courses and programs within the system, and we lessen the
competition that happens when systems compete with one another for scarce
resources. The cost of the loss in efficiency and resources outweighs any
potential benefit.

    We respectfully request that the Committee not support HB 1591. Thank
you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.