



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Legislative Management
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by
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HB 1624 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committee on Legislative Management:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB1624 HD1, Relating to the University of Hawaii, which requires the State Auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit of the UH system and recommend whether separating the Community Colleges and four-year universities into different systems would increase the efficiency of each institution.

Article X, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, establishes that the Board of Regents "shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." We do recognize that autonomy must be exercised with transparency, and in that regard we would cooperate with the State Auditor in any way possible, as we do now on the wide ranging special audits conducted now in addition to our federally mandated external audit.

As far as generating efficiencies by separating the Community Colleges and four-year universities into different systems, such a move would incur significant additional costs for governance and central administrative services that are now shared within the University system. There would also likely need to be a central coordinating board for higher education. This approach also runs counter to the more common trends on the mainland that are seeking to consolidate community college and university systems in order to generate administrative efficiencies, reduce program duplication, and better ensure student transfer.

The University does not object to this measure, however, we do not believe this will be a fruitful use of the resources of the State Auditor. Furthermore, if this audit is as substantial and comprehensive as described, it will entail additional University resources to support the Legislative Auditor's efforts. The University requests an appropriation for the University's efforts. Thank you for your time and consideration.