



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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Senate Committee on Higher Education
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by

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SB 503 – MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Sakamoto, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 503 that establishes an undergraduate degree program in applied engineering at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, creates a special advisory committee, and appropriates funds for the committee and two faculty positions.

The University of Hawai'i thanks the legislature for this intent to support the growth of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. We support this proposal in principle, but not at this time.

The development of a new academic offering requires review by the Council of Chief Academic Officers representing all ten campuses. The Council is the advisory body that assesses academic and workforce need in the state, the cost of program implementation, potential articulation and transfer among campuses, academic considerations such as accreditation and faculty availability, and whether or not the effort duplicates existing programs at other campuses. After a campus is authorized to plan a new program, a program proposal goes before the Board of Regents.

Any new program proposed in the current budgetary environment must undergo stringent review of continuing operational costs as well as initial implementation. In this specific case, applied technology degrees are expensive, and it is important that we clearly delineate this proposal for applied engineering from UH Mānoa's engineering program and Maui Community College's proposal for an engineering technology program.

Thank you again for your support of UH, and the opportunity to testify on SB503.