



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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### Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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by

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and

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### **SB 504 SD2 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 504 SD2 to make an appropriation to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for the establishment of a sustainability internship program.

Unfortunately, we cannot support the bill in its current form because of our many other pressing budget priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawaii. We are grateful to the Legislature's attention to these needs. We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following substantive information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process. We are open to continuing this discussion with you and any interested parties in support of this measure.

We appreciate and share the interest expressed in this legislation for supporting sustainability efforts, particularly focusing on education and energy conservation. UH Mānoa currently supports several initiatives in this area:

- We currently utilize one graduate student in the Facilities Management office to conduct research on sustainability, promote energy-savings projects, and to oversee student volunteers;
- We've established an energy management office within Facilities Management consisting of 2 FTE positions and two graduate assistants;
- We fund the UH Mānoa Sustainability Council with 1 FTE and an operating budget of approximately \$80,000;
- Sea Grant has 1.5 FTE and financial support of \$50,000 to plan and conduct a campus-wide delamping program;

- We have a .5 FTE position at the School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology devoted to energy conservation efforts; and
- We are in the process of staffing an Office of Physical and Environmental Planning to focus on integrating sustainability into long-range planning and daily resource management.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.