



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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Senate Committee on Higher Education
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by

Linda K. Johnsrud
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy,
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 146 – REQUESTING THE HAWAII P-20 PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION TO CONVENE THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO EXAMINE CURRENT AND EMERGING PROGRAMS SEEKING TO TRACK STUDENT PROGRESS AND DEVELOP A LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS TO GRADE TWELVE, AND BEYOND TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.

Chairs Sakamoto and Tokuda, Vice Chairs, and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing and Committee on Higher Education: Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 146 concerning P-20 Partnerships for Education.

The University of Hawai'i fully supports SCR 146 and P-20's role in convening agencies to examine data needs and propose a longitudinal data tracking system for students from early childhood through public schools, the University, and the workforce. P-20 has taken active initiatives to lay the groundwork for linking student data between public secondary and postsecondary education, including a pilot data project. P-20 is also taking the lead in addressing the state's needs for workforce as well as education data, and has met with representatives from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Department of Education, and the University of Hawai'i to discuss requirements and data sharing possibilities.

Creating a longitudinal data system as described in SCR 146 is a very large and complex project that requires interagency input and cooperation. High quality data and longitudinal data tracking are critical elements for decision making in education and evaluating the impact of policies and programs. We thank the legislature for their support of these efforts, and for the opportunity to testify,