



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 24, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

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SB 1120 SD1: RELATED TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 1120 Senate Draft 1 that appropriates funding to implement the requirements of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Sections 304A-1861, 304A-1862, and 304A-1863, and requires the University of Hawai'i to work with the Department of Education and other groups to provide outcome measures and a report to the legislature on these STEM initiatives.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) very much appreciates the support shown by the legislature to STEM education and concurs that increasing the number of STEM graduates is a vital part of the state's ability to respond to emerging and high growth industries. We would like to note that this is a high priority for the University. The importance we place on strengthening the STEM pipeline is reflected in our UH Strategic Outcomes for 2008-2015 where the production of more STEM graduates is one of our performance indicators.

The STEM priority is also reflected in our biennium budget operating fund request for 2011-2013. The development of our budget strategy was grounded in our strategic outcomes, and particularly in President Greenwood's three initiatives that include the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative, Project Renovate to Innovate, and Workforce Development and Technology Advancement. Aligned with this, the University is requesting Outcomes Based Funding that holds us accountable for meeting these strategic priorities that address the state's educational and economic needs. Our Outcomes Based Funding request targets an increase in the number of graduates, and also attaches an additional weight for the production of STEM graduates at each campus. The University's biennium budget proposal also includes program change requests (PCRs) developed and prioritized by systemwide groups of administrators, faculty, staff, and students and approved by our Board of Regents. Preference was given to PCRs for new and emerging programs that address state needs for an educated workforce, with added consideration given to programs that supported the movement of students from two to four year programs.

The list of STEM-related PCRs in our biennium budget request includes: a) from UH Mānoa, an engineering consortium that partners with community colleges at the pre-engineering and lower division level with a goal of facilitating the flow of transfer students in engineering program; b) from UH Hilo a best practices in STEM education initiative; and c) various STEM-related initiatives from the UH Community Colleges.

While the University appreciates the intent of SB 1120 SD1 to support STEM education with particular initiatives, we urge the legislature to refer to the University's biennium budget request which specifies University priorities in this area. These have been vetted with our campuses and reflect strategic priorities and alignment with capacity and supporting programs.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.