



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
March 18, 2013 at 2:30pm

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### SB 46 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 46 SD2 HD1 that establishes the post-secondary education commission within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to authorize post-secondary educational institutions to operate in the state, to maintain a listing of such institutions, and to act on complaints concerning these institutions. SB 46 SD2 HD1 addresses the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education regulations under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The University appreciates the thoroughness of SB 46 SD2 HD1 in specifying the criteria for authorization of post-secondary institutions, for example, through accreditation status from a recognized national or regional body and demonstration of financial integrity. These provisions serve to protect authorized institutions as well as the public by delineating the basis for authorization.

Furthermore, it is the University's position that placing the authorization function outside the University of Hawai'i (UH) avoids the potential or the appearance of a conflict of interest were the state's sole public university to authorize private providers to operate within the state. The University is available to offer DCCA any expertise it may need regarding post-secondary educational institutions and on accreditation.

Again, we appreciate the thoughtfulness in SB 46 SD2 HD1 in addressing the U.S. Department of Education regulations, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.