



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts  
February 9, 2016 at 1:30 pm

By  
John Morton, VP for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i

SB 2971 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Taniguchi and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2971. The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) strongly supports SB 2971. This measure would repeal the requirement that the University of Hawai'i prepare an annual report on the development of the Construction Academy program.

The Construction Academy began in 2004 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant funded a pilot program between the UHCCs and select O'ahu high schools to prepare students with the skills needed to pursue careers in the construction industry. In 2006, the Hawai'i State Legislature appropriated funds to institutionalize and expand the program to other high schools throughout the State. The program has long since established itself as an integral part of the pathway for construction-related education.