Senator [Name],

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3120, which relates to the University of Hawai‘i. As Interim Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, I am pleased to share the University’s position on this important legislation.

As you know, the University of Hawai‘i is the state’s largest higher education system, comprising eight mainland campuses, two branch campuses, and a community college system. Our institutions are dedicated to providing high-quality education, research, community service, and public outreach. We are committed to excellence and innovation, and we strive to meet the diverse needs of Hawai‘i’s people.

Senate Bill No. 3120 proposes to [briefly explain the details of the bill]. In [specific context], the University has [state University’s position].

[Reasons or arguments supporting the position]

I urge your support for Senate Bill No. 3120, as it aligns with our institutional goals and the state’s vision for higher education. Together, we can ensure that [specific outcome].

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I welcome any questions or further discussion.

Sincerely,

[Name]
Interim Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai‘i
SB 3120  RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of Senate Bill 3120 is to increase the amount of general fund appropriations previously appropriated for the State of Hawai‘i B Plus Scholarship program. The University of Hawai‘i deeply appreciates the Legislature’s efforts on behalf of student access to higher education and this increase in need-based aid for Hawai‘i residents.

We respectfully suggest a further clarification in the criteria for eligibility. The bill proposes that an individual who qualifies for this scholarship “is considered low income according to federal financial aid guidelines.” We suggest that this language be replaced with the following: “is eligible for need-based financial aid based on federal financial aid guidelines.” This language simplifies the implementation of the scholarship for financial aid officers.

The University supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Board of Regent approved Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.