House Committee on Higher Education And Technology
Hearing - Thursday, December 17th, 2020

Student Representative - Rene Hutchins
ASUH at Windward CC, President
UH Student Caucus, Chairperson
Difficulties of Studying Amidst a Pandemic

- Lack of Technology, having computers and internet at home
- Lack of Bandwidth, especially with multiple users on one network
- Conflicting Priorities:
  - Completing courses, Children’s Studies (Student Parents), Working from home, Essential Workers, Maintaining good health
- Student Learning Period for those taking online courses for the very First-Time
Difficulties of Studying Amidst a Pandemic

● Faculty Learning Period
  ○ Slight intermission while classes were switched to online

● Emotional and Mental Health
  ○ Some losing access to on-campus care, dealing with isolation

● Hard to connect with some offices who were working from home
  ○ Frustrations of “Do they even want to talk to me?”
Positives of Studying Amidst a Pandemic

- Communicating with Other Students became much easier
  - Building essential Netiquette skills
- Faculty became more accessible
  - Expectations for Online Office Hours improved, much more predictable and consistent
- Critical Campus support services going online
  - In some ways, became easier to connect with them once you got past the initial barrier of how to do so
Things Greatly Appreciated this Year

● Urgent Student Relief Fund + CARES funding
  ○ Helped students support themselves, especially if they lost jobs or significant hours
● The ability to Withdraw (W) later into the semester
● The ability to change your grading option after viewing grades
  ○ CR/NC vs. an impacted GPA
● Emerging scholarship programs to pull students back into school