



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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By
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HB 560 HD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY TRAINING

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 560 HD1. This measure would require the University of Hawai'i community colleges to, among other things, establish energy systems and technology training courses for county officers and employees responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving construction projects that contain renewable energy systems and related technology.

Honolulu Community College is the leader of the construction and trades related training on the island of O'ahu and mandated by law to provide construction and trades apprenticeship training. The College has experience in delivering curriculum around new energy system technologies and equipment. The electrical installation and maintenance technology program and the Pacific Center for Advanced Training and Technology (both Honolulu CC programs), have partnered to create new green technology training, including solar installation and maintenance. These customized programs have been geared for active duty military personnel and veterans, and have been offered on our military bases. They have also been offered to business organizations and is available through open enrollment. The community colleges also have a unique partnership with Johnson Controls Inc. through a performance based contract to lower the campus energy costs, waste, and implementation of new energy systems. This performance based contract includes an educational component where resources are provided for curriculum development, short-term instructional classes, and professional energy management consultation.

Honolulu Community College is poised to implement HB 560 HD1 to provide the necessary training for county officers and employees responsible for permitting, inspecting, licensing, and approving projects, including officers and employees at county public works departments, planning and permitting departments, and fire departments. The College has years of experience in offering long-term and short-term training programs for specific energy related industries.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 560 HD1 on the condition that any funds do not supplant any portion of the University's Supplemental Budget Request.