



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means and
Senate Committee on Judiciary
April 5, 2022 at 10:05 a.m.

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HB 1775 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Keohokalole, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 1775 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Civil Rights. HB 1775 HD2 SD1 requires covered entities to designate a Title IX coordinator and adopt written policies no later than January 1, 2023; requires annual reports to the Legislature; and establishes three positions (3.0 FTE) within the University System to assist with the implementation of the provisions of this bill.

The University shares the Legislature's desire to implement policies and procedures that prevent and address sex discrimination and gender-based violence and create an educational environment that enhances safety and advances gender equity. As Title IX celebrates its 50th year of existence in June 2022, the framework and scope continue to evolve and expand. Accordingly, the University appreciates the overall policy guidance and objectives provided by this bill, which will allow educational institutions to develop the specific details of policies and procedures as part of their internal governance structure and through engagement with stakeholders and community members. This allows the University to further refine its policies and procedures over time and continue to align with best practices. Additionally, the University appreciates the three positions (3.0 FTE) established by this bill to meet the continued demand for expertise in the ever-expanding legal arena of Title IX. These positions will assist with ensuring competency and consistency systemwide in the implementation of all state and federal laws related to sex discrimination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1775 HD2 SD1. The University looks forward to continuing our work with the Legislature and the Women's Legislative Caucus in support of a safe and nondiscriminatory campus environment.