



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By
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HCR 36 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO WORK WITH THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE A CORAL REEF ADVISORY TEAM OF YOUTH.

Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Nishihara, and members of the committees:

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit this testimony of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) on HCR 36 which proposes the University work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Education (DOE) to create a Coral Reef Advisory Team of Youth. HCR 36 specifically references the Partnership for Reform through Investigative Science and Math Program (PRISM), which is an initiative that began as a partnership between UH Hilo and Hawai'i island K-8th grade schools.

The UH Hilo School of Education and Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science Program were the lead units in developing PRISM, which was done through a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The PRISM program has not been operational since the NSF funding ended in 2010, however, the materials developed through the project and contact at UH Hilo remain available for teachers across the state who still use the curriculum resources.

UH Hilo supports efforts to involve youth in the conservation and management of natural resources. Restarting the PRISM program will require additional funding and staffing. We recommend removing the reference to the PRISM program in the resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and considering our recommendation.