



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Economic Development  
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By

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#### HB 399 – RELATING TO TAX CREDITS

Chair Holt, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 399, which seeks to provide qualified internship income tax credits to those who employ student interns from the Hawai'i Department of Education or the University of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the House's desire to incentivize the expansion of work-based learning in order to foster collaboration between Hawai'i's educational institutions and local industry, with a common goal of addressing the State's pressing workforce needs. Internships are indeed one of several nationally recognized "high impact practices" that tend to correlate with student success beyond graduation. When done well, internships help students build their self-confidence while acclimating to workplace culture and developing key industry-based skills that will enhance their employability.

The University of Hawai'i's new Strategic Plan 2023-2029, approved by the Board of Regents in November 2022, features an imperative calling on UH to "Meet Hawai'i's workforce needs of today and tomorrow." One of the stated objectives under this imperative is to partner more effectively with employers in order to "ensure the necessary preparation and support for students to succeed in their career," and the University will track its students' participation in internships as one of the metrics used to measure achievement of this objective. Regardless of the outcome of this bill, UH will strive to expand curricular offerings that feature workplace internships in the years ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.