



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

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

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
March 17, 2023 at 3:02 p.m.

By

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#### HB 984 HD2 – RELATING TO FIREARMS

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 984 HD2, which, among other things, prohibits the carrying or possessing a firearm in certain locations and premises, including any public or private community college, college, or university, and adjacent parking areas, including but not limited to buildings, classrooms, laboratories, artistic venues, athletic fields or venues. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of HB 984 HD2 and this provision in particular. UH respectfully requests the following amendment.

UH recommends an amendment to Section 2 of the measure which identifies certain locations and premises where the possession of a firearm is prohibited. On page 5 subparagraph (7), the UH requests that “**research facilities**” also be added to the prohibited areas at any university or college.

UH has educational, research and cooperative extension locations across the state which are not physically located or adjacent to a campus but provide a wide array of research and education to UH students as well as the general public.

In light of the frequency of mass shootings, increasing reports of gunshots, and the availability of guns that heighten the risk for suicide on college campuses across the U.S., the risk and scope of gun violence has taken an enormous toll on students and employees sense of safety on campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this issue.