



**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  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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HB 1192 HD1 – RELATING TO ADVANCING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii (UH) supports the intent of this measure as it provides educational outreach and engagement programs through the Public Access Room under the Legislative Reference Bureau and supports efforts to enhance civic engagement throughout the state.

However, the bill in its current draft mandates the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room with respect to outreach but provides no funding to allocate staffing for this purpose. UH is unsure what the Public Access Room is envisioning with its outreach and engagement program. With this uncertainty, UH has reservations about having this language put into statute to mandate this coordination. Having said this, if it is the desire of the legislature to pass this measure, UH respectfully requests an appropriation and positions to provide the University the ability to effectuate the requirements of this measure.

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