



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
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By

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HCR 177/HR 182 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO ESTABLISH BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, FOOD SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION AT LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chairs Gates and Perruso, Vice Chairs Kahaloa and Kapela, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 177/HR 182.

The University of Hawai'i System (UH System) includes seven community colleges and three four-year institutions. Each campus in the UH System has its distinct mission and purpose. While the accreditation standards of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges would allow for the creation of baccalaureate degrees at a community college, the UH System critically assesses any potential curricular duplication and costs (i.e., administrative costs, oversight, etc.) associated with new programs and has sought to keep such degrees at the existing four-year campuses due to limited resources available.

New programs, such as those discussed here, must first submit an authorization to plan (ATP) that is reviewed by the UH Officers and then by the Council of Chief Academic Officers. The intent of this initial review is to ascertain that there is no unnecessary duplication of programs across the UH System and that appropriate consultation with existing programs is conducted. Among the questions that would be raised during the ATP period include the resources needed to establish entirely new baccalaureate degrees, the cost of hiring faculty with the necessary qualifications, and the number of students who might be served by these programs.

UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Tropical Agriculture and the Environment (TAE). Students in TAE learn how to responsibly manage land, water, crops, and agricultural systems. This degree program prepares students to solve complex problems using

innovative applied science methods, aiming to improve plant production, ensure a sustainable, safe, and abundant food supply, protect the environment, and meet our community's needs. Students can choose between five tracks: Plant Production and Management; Environmental Soil Sciences; Environmental Urban Horticulture; Pests, Pathogens, and Invasive Species; and Plant Sciences. UH Mānoa students also have the option to earn a certificate in the business and management of agricultural operations (Agribusiness Certificate) or receive a minor in Plant Production and Management that CTAHR offers.

In addition, the UH West O'ahu offers a Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Community Food Systems. This program trains students to think critically across disciplinary boundaries to actively solve problems through work in agriculture, policy-making, planning, business, research, health sciences, and education. Leeward Community College also has articulated pathways with UH West O'ahu and UH Mānoa for furthering teacher preparation in the existing Bachelor of Education programs at the West O'ahu and Mānoa campuses.