



# 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 Labor and Government Operations  
Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy  
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 120 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO COLLECT DATA RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE IN HAWAII, EVALUATE THE COLLECTED DATA, AND DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO PROVIDE BETTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 120 SD1 relating to the development of an information technology workforce in Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of this measure but defers to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on provisions applicable to their department. SCR 120 SD1 requests the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in collaboration with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the University of Hawai'i, to collect data relating to the development of an information technology workforce in Hawai'i, evaluate the collected data, and develop a strategy to provide better information technology training.

UH is willing to participate as one of the stakeholders in this collaboration and looks forward to working with the others involved. UH recognizes that information technology is a mission-critical industry for the State of Hawai'i and embraces its role in developing that economic sector. That is precisely why the new UH Strategic Plan identifies "Data Sciences and Global Cybersecurity" as a targeted area for its efforts to diversify Hawai'i's economy through research and innovation. UH has also partnered with the Hawai'i Department of Education, the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce, and the CIO Council of Hawai'i to organize convenings focusing on collaborative efforts to support and develop the State's information technology workforce. UH would be pleased to partner with the agencies identified in this resolution to collect relevant data and coordinate statewide efforts.