



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 Higher Education
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

By

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SCR 193 SD1 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT DIRECTLY ALIGN WITH JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND INDUSTRY NEEDS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGION OF SERVICE

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on SCR 193 SD1, which requests the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) to develop a comprehensive list of bachelor's degree programs and other innovative workforce development pathways that directly align with job opportunities and industry needs within their respective regions of service.

In alignment with these goals, UH has been actively working to enhance workforce development through innovative pathways such as micro-credentials. In 2024, UH implemented a policy allowing campuses to develop short-term credentials that serve as validated learning achievements, which complement existing degree programs. Additionally, UH has developed a process to define and identify industry-recognized credentials and will be inviting industry partners to participate in the creation of evaluation committees. These initiatives are designed to be responsive to workforce needs and provide flexible, industry-relevant training options for students.

We support the overall goal of aligning education with workforce needs, and we look forward to providing a report that identifies gaps between programming and current job needs and future workforce trends to ensure the UH is addressing Hawai'i's workforce needs in a more sustainable, efficient, and equitable manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SCR 193 SD1. We look forward to collaborating with the Legislature to ensure that Hawai'i's educational and workforce needs are met effectively and efficiently.