



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and
House Committee on Education

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by

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HB 63 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Chang and Takumi, Vice Chairs Bertram and Berg, and Members of the Committees:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in general support of HB 63 concerning Robotics Education.

The UH College of Engineering has been an active participant in K-12 outreach in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in Hawai'i. Specifically, through our involvement in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) and Botball competitions, we have observed that there is a tremendous value in the competition form of project oriented learning. Students involved in these programs are motivated, engaged in problem solving, develop team-work skills, and handle a variety of interdisciplinary situations. They also see the application of math, science, and computer science through these competitive projects.

We urge the State to support state-wide programs such as robotics education, as well as the many other successful STEM programs which promote student interest and improve achievement in science, technology and mathematics. This in turn will contribute significantly in preparing our students to participate fully in our society and contribute to our State's growth.