



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

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by

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HB 478 – RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Bertram and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of HB 478 is to establish a prepaid tuition program under the State Post-Secondary Education Commission.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the Legislature to establish a prepaid tuition program that benefits students who intend to attend institutions of higher education. Unfortunately, the Post-Secondary Education Commission is not equipped to handle the administration of such a program. The Commission does not employ any staff members; it is made up of the members of the UH Board of Regents and four community members. It currently exists to serve as a conduit for Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) federal funds that pass through the commission for the ten UH campuses, Chaminade University and Hawai'i Pacific University to provide financial assistance to Hawai'i resident students. One staff member from the UH Board of Regents office, in addition to his additional job responsibilities, is tasked with administering these LEAP federal funds.

The University of Hawai'i, therefore, respectfully requests legislative appropriation of the required positions and funds to properly staff the Post-Secondary Education Commission to run the prepaid tuition program, as long as these funds do not replace or adversely impact the University's Board of Regents approved Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.