Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Tourism & Culture and Committee on Higher Education

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by

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HCR 148 and HR 117:

URGING THE HAWAII ARTS CENTER FOR YOUTH, THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, AND THE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOL TO WORK TOGETHER TO COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH A FACILITY FOR THE HAWAII ARTS CENTER FOR YOUTH ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT UNIVERSITY AVENUE AND DOLE STREET.

Chairs Yamane and Sakamoto, Vice Chairs Manahan and Bertram, and Members of the Committees:

The University appreciates the intent of HCR148 and HR 117, but we oppose the resolutions in their current form.

The University is currently undergoing a comprehensive process to design and execute a Long Range Development Plan for the management of our 320 acres of land on the Mānoa campus. That process takes into account the current uses and future needs of our dynamic institution, and includes our students, faculty and community members. A resolution such as this, would preempt that process by making a request for a specific use and location.

Our LRDP does include the redevelopment of a College of Education facility which will in part replace the College building lost to fire last summer. We included a request to build that facility in our CIP budget, but that request was not included in the House version of the budget. We would request that rather than pass this resolution, the House reconsider support for the building of the facility, which would by its nature be a multi-use facility.

University facilities are used by outside groups very often and we welcome those uses and interactions. However, we wish to continue to develop our own Long Range Development Plan, and urge your support for our request for a new College of Education facility in the Biennium Budget.