

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB3072HD1 – RELATING TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

February 8, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

by

Linda K. Johnsrud
Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai‘i System

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Labor and Public Employment Committee
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Chair Sonson, Vice Chair Nakasone, and members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

I am Linda K. Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, University of Hawai'i System, and I am testifying on behalf of the University on House Bill 3072 House Draft 1 that renames the Hawai'i State Postsecondary Education Commission, adds members, places it within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for administrative purposes, and expands its powers and authority.

HB3072 HD1 expands the scope of the Commission's responsibilities to include student incentive programs to meet workforce needs, and extends its authority to evaluate Hawai'i's elementary and secondary public schools. In light of this expanded scope beyond higher education, the University of Hawai'i respectfully recommends that a name change to the Hawaii Commission on Education and Economic Development would be more appropriate than the name Hawai'i Higher Education Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.