HB 3398, HD2 – RELATING TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

I am Linda Johnsrud, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, University of Hawai‘i System. On behalf of the University System, I am testifying on House Bill 3398 House Draft 2, which appropriates funds to the vice chancellors for student affairs at University of Hawai‘i campuses for shared resources for Philippine language and culture programs.

House Bill 3398 HD2 presents data about the representation of Filipinos in higher education and makes a compelling case for increasing the availability of Philippine language and culture programs and supporting recruitment and retention at the UH campuses.

While we agree with its intent, the University System cannot support HB3398 HD2 which appropriates funds to campus vice chancellors for student affairs for curriculum development and student services. As a general practice, chancellors are charged with the responsibility on their campuses for a process of establishing priorities and allocating resources, and we would prefer to honor this process of review and priority-setting at the campus level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.