



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education**
March 27, 2008 at 2:15 p.m., Conference Room 309

by
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Presented by
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HCR 313 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO PERFORM A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK.

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

My name is Dr. Jon Matsuoka, I am the Dean of the UHM School of Social Work and I am testifying today in opposition to HCR 313, which requests the legislative auditor to perform a management audit of the School of Social Work.

Let me state from the onset that the UHM School of Social Work believes strongly in the concept of accountability and does, in fact, submit itself to regular reviews (effectively, compliance audits) from both internal and external sources. This would include program reviews done by the University of Hawai'i every five years, and regular reaccreditation/reaffirmation reviews done by the Western Association of School and Colleges and by the Council on Social Work Education. The UHM School of Social Work has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the only nationally recognized organization that has been given the authority for the establishment and enforcement of training standards for social workers in the United States, since 1948. Since its inception in 1942, the School has never failed to pass any review or audit that it has been subjected to.

Our objection to HCR 313 lies in the fact that it is asking the state (both the Legislative Auditor's Office and the University of Hawai'i) to commit time and resources to do something for which no actual need or justification has been established. The preamble of the resolution, which normally supplies general information or arguments that give a reason for the legislative action being proposed, offers neither. It simply states what the mission, principle responsibilities, and strategic plan are for the School of Social Work, then immediately proposes that a management audit be done.

Even if a need or other justification for a management audit could be established, we would argue that the involvement of the Legislative Auditor's Office is unnecessary. As stated earlier,

the School of Social Work is reviewed regularly by a number of different entities. In 2009, the school will be undergoing another reaccreditation review by the Council on Social Work Education. As usual, all aspects of the school's operations will be evaluated – both by a site visitation team as well as by a committee on the basis of the site visitation team report and self-study reports submitted by the School of Social Work. The process is a stringent one and strenuous enough for the University of Hawai'i to forgo a scheduled internal program review that would have been done during the same period. If the State Legislature really determines that there is a legitimate need for a management or compliance audit of the UHM School of Social Work, we would suggest that they utilize the reaccreditation report that will become available at the completion of the review process rather than utilizing additional state resources to accomplish the same thing.

For these reasons, I am urging this committee to deny passage of HCR 313. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on this matter.